Laarni flees to HK to escape Senate summons

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inquirer.net
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2001 ★ 44 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 35 ₱15

George Go leaves RP, cites threats

WHERE'S George Go?

The former chair of Equitable PCI Bank can't be found though he's one of the 13 persons the prosecution said would be served subpoenas to appear at the impeachment trial.

A statement from Go sent to the media last night provides a clue why he has dropped out of sight. "I have been receiving death threats," Go

GEORGE/ A15

President says Cayetano lying

By Donna S. Cueto and Alcuin Papa

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday said Sen. Renato Cayetano was "fabricating stories" when he accused him of intervening in the Vizconde massacre case to secure the acquittal of Hubert Webb.

The President claimed that he did not interfere in the case. If he had, he said the son of

PRESIDENT/ A16

WITNESS for the prosecution, Edgardo Espiritu, explodes the biggest bombshell so far in the impeachment trial of his "mahal kong Pangulo."

JESS YUSON

Erap owns BW, says Espiritu

Palace: Ex-finance chief holds grudge for collapse of his bank

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE PROSECUTION yesterday exploded its biggest bombshell at the impeachment trial of President Estrada when former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu testified that President Estrada jointly owned BW Resources Corp. with Dante Tan.

Espiritu said that the President even excitedly broached to him that he reaped a huge profit when the price of BW shares soared in the middle of 1999.

"*Medyo po* excited *siya at binanggit niya sa akin,* 'Ed, *medyo malaki na ang kinikita ko dito sa* BW Resources (He was a bit excited as he told me 'Ed, I am earning quite a lot from BW Resources),'" said Espiritu, the finance secretary from June 30, 1998 to Jan. 5, 2000.

Espiritu, who at times referred to Mr. Estrada as "Mahal na Pangulo (beloved President)," did not say when his meeting with the President took place, nor the value of the stock windfall.

Under the Constitution, Mr. Estrada as President is barred from engaging directly or indirectly in any business in the country.

Espiritu, who said the President's involvement in BW was one of the reasons he resigned from the Cabinet, also testified that Mr. Estrada tried to persuade him last Dec. 12 not to testify in the impeachment trial.

Malacañang dismissed Espiritu's testimony as fabricated.

"Ed Espiritu is the prosecution's

ERAP/ A16

DAY 20

THE NARRATION of former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. resumes today. JESS YUSON

President's (ex-)men provide most damning testimony

By Raul J. Palabrica

ANALYSIS

FORMER Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu may have had a falling out with President Estrada, but yesterday he continued to address him "*Mahal na Pangulong Erap*" (beloved President Erap) whenever he had to make reference to him. Was he being sarcastic?

Jose Luis Yulo, former president of the Philippine Stock Exchange, continued to profess his friendship with the President even if he (Yulo) had given testimony in support of the impeachment charge of betrayal of trust.

Espiritu stands out from the roster of prosecution witnesses so far presented as the one who had worked closely with the President (from 1992 to 2000) and once enjoyed his trust and confidence.

Even after he left the Estrada administration in a huff in January last year, Espiritu stayed out of sight and chose to lick his wounds in the safe comforts of his house in the United States. Hardly any word was heard from him about the reported anomalous goings-on in Malacañang. Until yesterday's hearing.

Although it did not possess the character of solid evidence, Espiritu's statement that the President had, in a blurt of excitement, admitted he had profited much from his BW investments was the first independent confirmation of ru-

PRESIDENT'S/ A16

VAL HANDUMON

LIFE goes on at the Palace where the annual rites of the New Year, the Vin D'Honneur, are hosted by the President and First Lady Dr. Loi Ejercito shown here greeting the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco.

Defense stops Yasay on other Erap deals

By Rocky Nazareno

AN EXPECTED bombshell in the testimony of former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. was cut short when the impeachment court had to adjourn.

The last prosecution witness for the day, Yasay could only testify that it was President Estrada who introduced him to Dante Tan and that the latter had come to his office sometime in June 1999 to complain about the investigation by a SEC audit team on BW Resources shares.

But Yasay could have testified more on the alleged intervention of Mr. Estrada in the BW scandal had House Prosecutor Raul Gonzalez not spent too much time trying to get Yasay to discuss other instances of pressure he received from Malacañang.

DEFENSE/ A16

Laarni flees to Hong Kong to escape Senate subpoena

By TJ Burgonio, Martin P. Marfil and Armand N. Nocum

LAARNI Enriquez, a mistress of impeached President Estrada, snuck out of the country and flew to Hong Kong yesterday, apparently to escape a summons to testify in the President's impeachment trial, according to the Senate secretary, who accused her of "deceit."

Plastics king and Mr. Estrada's friend William Gatchalian also left for Hong Kong around the same time as Enriquez, although he told the INQUIRER that the two trips were not related and that "I did not even know that she was leaving the country."

Curiously, a man on Enriquez's flight was detained by airport authorities for carrying a bag reportedly stuffed with P6 million, setting off a wave of speculations that his trip might have something to do with Enriquez's.

The mistress, a former movie starlet who has three children by Mr. Estrada, left for Hong Kong even though she knew she would be summoned to testify on Jan. 17, Senate Secretary Lutgardo Barbo told reporters.

Barbo said that when the subpoena was sent to Enriquez's home on

LAARNI/ A15

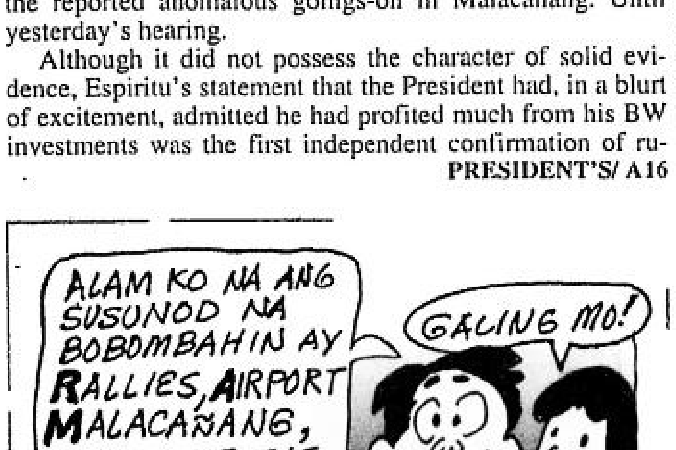
Celia de Castro, Raul de Guzman to be summoned

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

HOUSE prosecutors last night asked the impeachment court to summon two relatives of President Estrada who have held appointments under the Office of the President.

Named in separate motions were Celia Ejercito de Castro, identified in the prosecution's request as a presidential assistant for barangay

CELIA/ A6



ALAM KO NA ANG SUSUNOD NA BOBOMBAHIN AY RALLIES, AIRPORT MALACAÑANG, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AT SENATE!
GALING MO!

'Fidel' blown up, says Ramos

By Jerome Aning and Jowel F. Canuday

WHAT is the relation of "Fidel" to the five deadly bomb explosions in Metro Manila last Dec. 30?

Former President Fidel Ramos yesterday said he was half-afraid that the bombings would be blamed on him because the first letters of the five explosion sites—Ferguson square, the International airport, Dusit hotel, Edsan bus on Edsa, and Light Rail Transit—formed his first name.

Ramos came up with the acronym in assailing the

FIDEL/ A7

Estrada scraps plan to dump trash in Semirara

By Donna S. Cueto, Juliet L. Javellana, Hazel P. Villa and Connie E. Fernandez

PRESIDENT Estrada has ordered an indefinite halt to the government's plan to use Semirara Island in Antique as dump for Metro Manila's garbage, Finance Secretary Jose Pardo said yesterday.

Pardo told reporters that the President conveyed his decision Wednesday to the members of the Economic Coordinating Council then meeting in Malacañang, and that two or three sites in Luzon were being considered as alternative dumps.

"It looks now that we should no longer be looking at Semirara as the site, but respecting the position of the Senate to altogether set this aside for the meantime," said Pardo, who now chairs the ECC.

"We already have a TRO (temporary restraining order) and then we have a Senate hearing, so this (plan) should be shelved for now," he said.

But if things get worse, the President might issue a special proclamation that will detail "emergency powers" to solve the garbage problem, according to both Pardo and Robert Aventajado, Mr. Estrada's adviser on flagship projects.

In Antique, protesting residents of Semirara and neighboring towns were forced to leave their vigil site on Wednesday, after heavy equipment owned by the Semirara Coal Corp.

ESTRADA/ A6

NAKU... MAHIRAP LUSUTAN 'YAN!

Second **FRONT PAGE**

Erap lawyers face disbarment

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A PETITION to disbar lawyer Estelito Mendoza, one of President Estrada's defense lawyers in his impeachment trial, was formally filed before the Supreme Court at around 11 a.m. yesterday.

The 10-page complaint for disbarment named as respondents along with Mendoza, lawyers Fernando Chua, alleged personal representative of the President, and Manuel Lazaro, counsel for Mr. Estrada's friend Jaime Dichavez.

The complaint asked the court to disbar the three lawyers, that is, disqualify them from practicing law, for conspiring to cover up the alleged "Jose Velarde" secret account of President Estrada at the Equitable-PCI Bank.

The petition was filed before the SC's Office of the Bar Confidant by Teodoro Casiño of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Emilia Dapulan of the militant labor union Kilusang Mayo Uno and Fr. Jose Dizon of the church group Kairos. The three were also the private complainants in the impeachment complaint earlier filed before the House of Representatives.

They were supported by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Committee on Human Rights and Due Process, the Public Interest Law Center and lawyer groups Ouster, Clear, and Clamor.

The petition was also endorsed by nine private prosecutors assisting the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial.

Scandalous involvement

In a parallel move, KMU chair Crispin Beltran urged the Senate impeachment court to subpoena Mendoza and require him to reveal under oath what he knew about the alleged cover-up attempt.

"Mendoza's involvement in the creation of the Velarde account is scandalous. In all probability, he was on the plot to make a false identity for Estrada and even gave his expert legal advice. He has not and cannot deny his presence in his own office when the documents were being signed," Beltran said.

"Neither did he make the admission when he still had the chance that he was aware of the account in question when the matter first came up; and that in fact a part of the documentation for the account was accomplished in his very own office. Mendoza should be disbarred for holding back this critical information," he added.

Suppressed evidence

The disbarment petition said, "The respondents, colluding and confederating with one another and other persons loyal to President Estrada, and acting for the benefit of President Estrada, knowingly and maliciously suppressed evidence showing that President Estrada is the true owner of fictitious accounts supposedly maintained by a certain 'Jose Velarde' in the Equitable-PCI Bank."

The petition said respondents "obstructed, perverted and impeded the administration of justice" by misleading the impeachment court in violation of their duties under Canon 10 and Rule 10.01, Code of Professional Responsibility, among others, "by knowingly and maliciously suppressing material and vital facts which bear on the merit or lack of merit of the impeachment case against President Estrada."

The complainants charged the three lawyers with "colluding and confederating with one another to commit an obstruction in the administration of justice in the case for impeachment against President Estrada."

They claimed that the lawyers' complicity in trying to cover up the President's secret accounts "affects the respondent's moral character and qualifications as members of the legal profession."

They also claimed that the three lawyers committed deceit, gross misconduct in office, grossly immoral conduct, and violation of the lawyer's oath, which comprised grounds for the removal of their names from the Roll of Attorneys under Section 27 of Rule 138 of the Rules of Court.

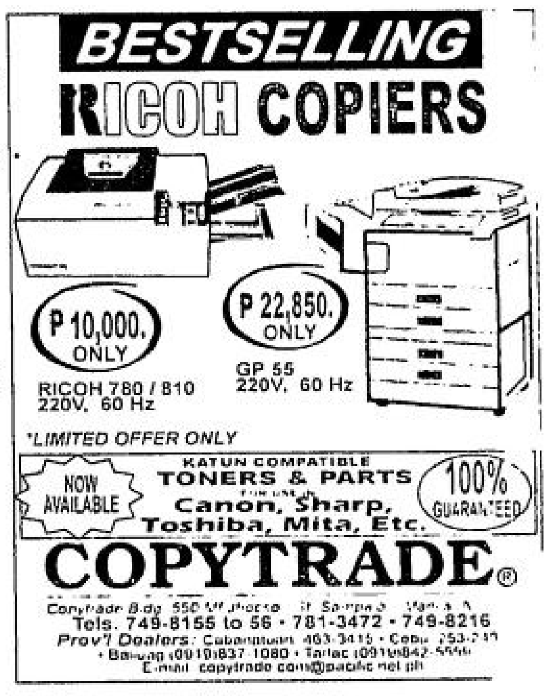
The complainants assailed Mendoza for allegedly being privy to the signing of documents which would transfer the ownership of the "Jose Velarde" account to Dichavez.

The prosecution panel claims that the Velarde account, believed to contain P1.2 billion, belongs to President Estrada.

Ocampo testimony

The signing of the documents occurred inside Mendoza's office on Rada Street in Makati City on Dec 13, according to Clarissa Ocampo, Equitable senior vice president and trust officer, in her testimony before the impeachment court on Jan. 2.

"The falsified investment management agreement was signed by Dichavez inside the office of Mendoza and in the presence of respondent Mendoza and Mr. George Go with full knowledge by the latter two about the criminal purpose of the same," the petition said.


BESTSELLING
RICOH COPIERS
P 10,000. ONLY
RICOH 780 / 810
220V, 60 Hz
P 22,850. ONLY
GP 55
220V, 60 Hz
*LIMITED OFFER ONLY
NOW AVAILABLE
KATUN COMPATIBLE
TONERS & PARTS
FOR USE IN
Canon, Sharp, Toshiba, Mita, Etc.
100% GUARANTEED
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 M. Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Dealers: Cabanatuan 463-3415 • Cebu 253-7...
• Baliuag (0919)837-1080 • Tarlac (0919)842-5556
E-mail copytrade.com@pacific.net.ph

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
Private Tutoring and Corporate Training are Available
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1048 to 49
ALABANG - 850-4756 / 850-4757
QUEZON CITY - 372-4914 / 372-4915

Estrada blames press for RP woes

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday said the crisis in the presidency showed that democracy worked in the country, but at the same time suggested the country's woes were largely the handiwork of an unrestrained press.

"We will overcome all these because it's the local press who's damaging the image of the country," the President told Palace reporters yesterday.

Mr. Estrada issued the tirade after presiding over the traditional Malacañang Vin D'honneur (French for ceremonial toast) for the New Year with the diplomatic corps.

In his speech at the ceremony, Mr. Estrada told the diplomatic community that the airing of the "jueteng" issue and the progress of impeachment case against him showed the "maturity of our democratic way of life."

He noted that he was being charged for "offenses which I have not committed."

Turmoil in peace

Still, he said, the political turmoil was being played out in an atmosphere of general peace.

"The possibilities of actions that I—or my well-placed detractors—could have taken are numerous. While such possibilities have been actual in other countries, you are now witnessing a constitutional process unprecedented in Asia," he said.

Accordingly, he asked the diplomats to "report to your government the strong faith of the Filipino in the ultimate triumph of the democratic process."

The President failed to mention the Dec. 30 bombings which killed 18 people and which many believe were linked to the political crisis.

But he admitted that the crisis was sufficiently grave to "affect our patience and our feelings" and to "challenge our national wisdom and fortitude."

Image problem

As Mr. Estrada later suggested to reporters that the crisis was largely a matter of image produced by the local press, the Hong Kong-based Asiaweek newsmagazine featured a cover story which said the President was at the center of a rotten political system.

The latest issue of Asiaweek plastered in its cover a "protest poster" of the President in a rogues' gallery. It displayed a grimacing Mr. Estrada holding a placard reading: "guilty."

The news article was titled "Unjust Times," and accompanied with a drop head which said, "As Estrada's defense crumbles, violence and intrigue sweep Manila."

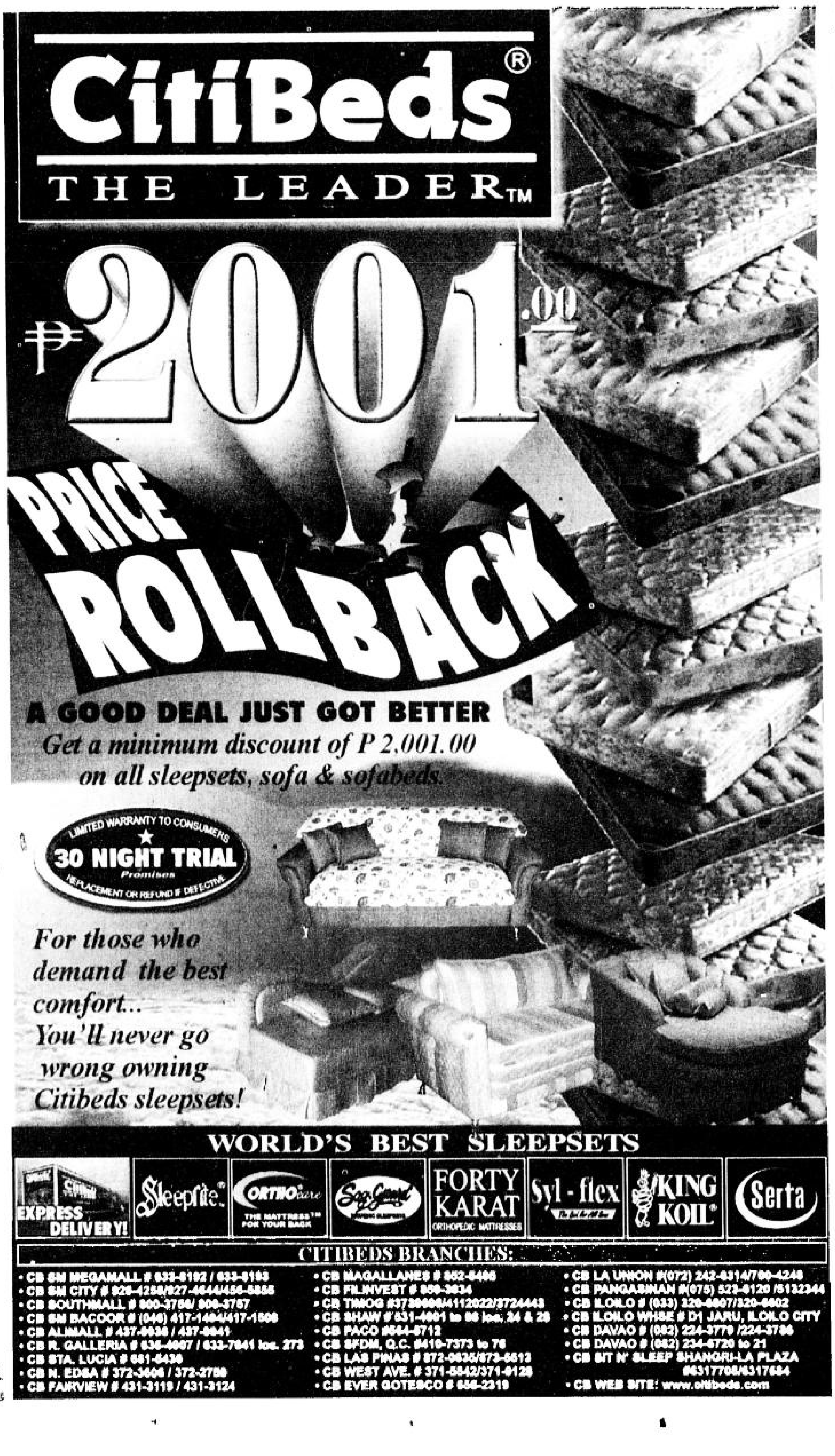
Rotten to the core

It reported how the bombings and revelations by Equitable PCIBank's vice president Clarissa Ocampo about the President's secret bank account under the name of "Jose Velarde" worked to give him a "bad day in court."

Ocampo, it said, succeeded in exposing a "political system rotten to the core, with the President at its center."

The article was accompanied by a feature on Ocampo's account of how Mr. Estrada's crony, Jaime Dichaves, former Equitable PCIBank chair George Go and possibly defense counsel Estelito Mendoza, attempted to transfer the Velarde account to Dichaves.

Armand Nocum


CitiBeds®
THE LEADER™
₱2001.00
PRICE ROLLBACK
A GOOD DEAL JUST GOT BETTER
Get a minimum discount of P 2,001.00 on all sleepsets, sofa & sofabeds.
LIMITED WARRANTY TO CONSUMERS
30 NIGHT TRIAL
Promises
REPLACEMENT OR REFUND IF DEFECTIVE
For those who demand the best comfort... You'll never go wrong owning Citibeds sleepsets!
WORLD'S BEST SLEEPSETS
EXPRESS DELIVERY!
Sleeprite
ORTHOcare THE MATTRESS FOR YOUR BACK
FORTY KARAT ORTHOPEDIC MATTRESSES
Syl-flex
KING KOIL
Serta
CITIBEDS BRANCHES:
• CB SM MEGAMALL # 633-6192 / 633-6193
• CB SM CITY # 926-4256/927-4644/456-5855
• CB SOUTHMALL # 800-3756/ 800-3757
• CB SM BACOOR # (046) 417-1404/417-1506
• CB ALIMALL # 437-0636 / 437-0641
• CB R. GALLERIA # 636-4007 / 633-7641 loc. 273
• CB STA. LUCIA # 681-6436
• CB N. EDSA # 372-3606 / 372-2750
• CB FAIRVIEW # 431-3119 / 431-3124
• CB MAGALLANES # 852-6406
• CB FILINVEST # 809-3634
• CB TIMOG #3730006/4112022/3724443
• CB SHAW # 631-4001 to 06 loc. 24 & 26
• CB PACO #564-6712
• CB SFDM, Q.C. #410-7373 to 76
• CB LAS PINAS # 872-0635/873-6613
• CB WEST AVE. # 371-5842/371-0128
• CB EVER GOTESCO # 656-2319
• CB LA UNION #(072) 242-6314/700-4248
• CB PANGASINAN #(075) 523-6120 /5132344
• CB ILOILO # (033) 320-6607/320-6602
• CB ILOILO WHSE # D1 JARU, ILOILO CITY
• CB DAVAO # (082) 224-3779 /224-3786
• CB DAVAO # (082) 234-6720 to 21
• CB SIT N' SLEEP SHANGRI-LA PLAZA #6317708/6317684
• CB WEB SITE: www.citibeds.com

FIRST TIME IMMIGRANT FARES
Vancouver $ 383
Toronto $ 483
LA or SFO $ 410
in Vancouver Canada
Bangkok $ 270
Sagada P 7250
ST. RAPHAEL TRAVEL AND TOURS
www.straphaeltrvl.com

Register now!
Limited seats only
TRADE, IMMIGRATION AND VISA SYMPOSIUMS
• for Tourists, nurses, contract workers etc.
CONVENOR WORLD AFFAIRS FORUM, INC.
with the support of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
• Century Park Hotel
January 24 Session
BRITISH EMBASSY SPEAKERS
• *Mr. Eamonn Staunton*
First Secretary (Commercial)
• *Mr. Michael Delaney*
Third Secretary (Immigration)
• *Mrs. Kathleen Anne Wain*
Third Secretary (Immigration)
February 07 Session
U.S. EMBASSY SPEAKERS
• *Counsellor George F. Ruffner*
(Commercial Affairs)
• *Counsellor John P. Caulfield*
(Consular Affairs)
February 20 Session
CANADIAN EMBASSY SPEAKERS
(Invited)
INQUIRIES
Telefax . 514-1163, 833-3858
Mr. D Y. Caparas
WAF SECRETARY GENERAL
• Former DFA Assistant Secretary
• Publisher-Editor
THE DIPLOMATIC POST

Jolo hostage negotiators eye elections

BY DONNA S. CUETO

AFTER showbiz personalities, hostage negotiators are planning to make a run for public office in the May 2001 elections.

Negotiator-candidates, of course, are those who were involved in the negotiations for the release of the hostages, both foreign and local, who were held by the Moro extremist group, the Abu Sayyaf, last year.

Heading the list of negotiator-candidates is the former top government negotiator himself, Robert Aventajado, who has made noises about running for the Senate.

Although he has been accused in the foreign press with having received a cut in ransom payments allegedly paid to the kidnappers for the release of over 20 foreign hostages, Aventajado remains undaunted and is hopeful he would be a senator soon.

He might run as an independent, if he does not run under the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, the administration party.

His co-negotiators, Ernesto Pacuño, alias Dragon, and Gen. Guillermo Ruiz are also planning to run for office in provincial elections.

Pacuño is eyeing the governorship of Abra, while Ruiz is planning to run against incumbent Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas for his Congress seat in Ilocos Norte.

Aventajado's aide, Robert Mananquil, revealed the plans of these key players in the so-called Sipadan hostage crisis. Mananquil himself said he is planning to run for mayor of La Paz, Tarlac, a post he ran for but lost in 1992.

Pacuño, who had been a three-term mayor, is currently a provincial board member of Abra. He said he is running under the Nationalist People's Coalition.

General Ruiz is expected to have the backing of Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. who had a falling out with Rep. Fariñas, according to some quarters.

Aventajado had told the INQUIRER earlier that he was thinking of running for the Senate because he "wants to help the people."

Calendars and posters with his face and name on them have reportedly already been printed.

BRANDED & GENERIC PRODUCTS
•HIGH STANDARD QUALITY
•IN BLISTER PACK
•AT VERY REASONABLE PRICE
•DISTRIBUTED IN HOSPITALS & DRUGSTORES NATIONWIDE
STEINBACH PRODUCTS, INC.
151 San Francisco St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 532-5401 • 532-5413 • 532-1983
Fax. 532-5415
DEALERS / DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

Vasquez, PR pillar, dies

ANTONIO "Tony" O. Vasquez, APR, one of the pillars in the field of public relations and Bank Marketing, died on Jan. 8, in Secaucus, New Jersey, USA.

Vasquez, is survived by his wife, Milagros; children, Rina, Jonjie and Gigi, Sony and Brian Leimoff, Janboy and Maya; and grandchildren, Yael, Ryan, Monique and Dylan.

Interment will be on Saturday at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Secaucus, New Jersey.

WALANG IWANAN
Teofisto
IPOKR
WALANG IWANAN
Not Guilty!
hoever opposes the existing system opposes what GOD has

ESTRADA supporters display banners and placards in their rally on Ayala Avenue in Makati.

MAKATI RALLY

Maceda sees turnaround

BUSINESSMEN will soon come around as the Estrada administration's reforms continue to post concrete gains, former ambassador to the US Ernesto Maceda predicted, even as he led a rally in Makati yesterday against the same businessmen.

Maceda also said local banks have been adversely affected by the perception that Equitable-PCIBank violated the rights of its depositors when it submitted confidential documents to the impeachment court pertaining to accounts allegedly owned by the President.

Speaking on the Channel 21 talk show, "Strictly Politics," Maceda said he has seen data showing that Philippine banks were losing depositors to foreign banks because of their belief Equitable-PCIBank breached the Bank Secrecy Law.

Equitable-PCIBank, the country's third largest bank, voluntarily gave confidential information to the Senate impeachment court, which is hearing charges of bribery, betrayal of public trust and others against the President.

Still, Maceda said, there were clear signs the local business climate would soon normalize as businessmen have responded positively to the various Estrada reform initiatives.

He said these initiatives include the appointment of former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara as executive secretary, the passage of executive and administrative orders to make governance more efficient and transparent, and the ongoing revamp of the Cabinet.

He cited the visit to Malacañang Wednesday of industrialist and United Opposition supporter Jose Concepcion, who gave his recommendations on the soon-to-be-vacated Comelec chairmanship.

"Businessmen are coming around. Their primary concern is to make money so the economy could move forward and they are sensing a return to normalcy," Maceda said.

Yesterday, Maceda led a group of 4,000 demonstrators against the Makati Business Club (MBC) at Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City.

He told the crowd the conspiracy of the rich and the United Opposition against the President led to the deterioration of the economy.

Ronald Lumbao, People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) spokesperson, said the conspiracy was proof the rich have no respect for the constitutional process.

Lumbao said the Makati rally was held to show that the poor have had enough of the rich.

The three-hour rally, which began at 11 a.m., was generally peaceful although there were times demonstrators and office employees exchanged barbs.

Nelson F. Flores

Abu grabs Rasul girl

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A 6-YEAR-OLD girl, said to be a member of the prominent Rasul clan, was abducted Wednesday by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan, reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said yesterday.

The report identified the victim as April Adzam Grant, daughter of British national Frank Grant and Mina Rasul Grant, said to be a relative of the Rasul clan headed by former senator Santanina Rasul.

According to the report, four heavily armed men barged into the family residence of the victim in Sitio Lebbuk, Barangay Sengal in Lamitan, Basilan at around 9:30 p.m. The young girl was forcibly dragged by the suspects toward two waiting pumpboats at the river bank of Gabuwan River, also in Lamitan. The kidnappers then sped toward an unknown direction with their captive.

"The real identity of the abductors are still being established but we are also acknowledging the Abu Sayyaf is a natural suspect," said Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga.

He added: "We cannot also discount the possibility that the incident was perpetrated by the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) or any other kidnap-for-ransom group in the province."

Senga also said that no ransom has been demanded by the abductors from the Grant family. *With AFP*

Guingona aide abducted

BY JEROME ANING
AND ROCKY NAZARENO

ELEVEN unidentified armed men on board two taxicabs abducted a member of the staff of Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr., a leader of the United Opposition, in Sta. Cruz, Manila, yesterday, the Western Police District reported.

WPD's SPO2 Herman Limayo said Alberto Saulog, 29, was standing in front of his house about noon at 1719 Milagros St. when the armed men surrounded and dragged him to one of the cabs waiting at Milagros corner San Lazaro Street.

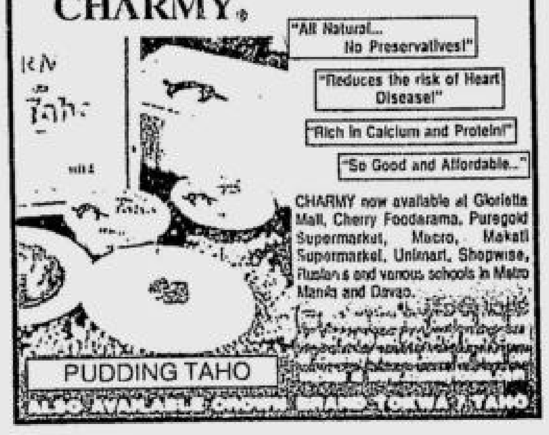
Several witnesses jotted the plate number of one of the cabs; labeled Twasco, as PYK 864.

According to the office of Guingona, Saulog was on his way to work at around noon when he was abducted.

"His wife, Vangie, shouted, asking if they were policemen. She said one of them just shouted back 'Quezon City'" said Guingona's media relations officer Pompie Crisostomo.

Crisostomo said Saulog was a liaison officer of Guingona.

Crisostomo added that their office had already checked with Camp Crame and Precinct 3 of the Western Police District but both said they knew nothing about Saulog's whereabouts.


SOYA... SO GOOD!
...SO HEALTHY!
Looks Best! Tastes Best!
CHARMY®
"All Natural... No Preservatives!"
"Reduces the risk of Heart Disease!"
"Rich in Calcium and Protein!"
"So Good and Affordable.."
CHARMY now available at Glorietta Mall, Cherry Foodarama, Puregold Supermarket, Macro, Makati Supermarket, Unimart, Shopwise, Ruston's and various schools in Metro Manila and Davao.
PUDDING TAHO

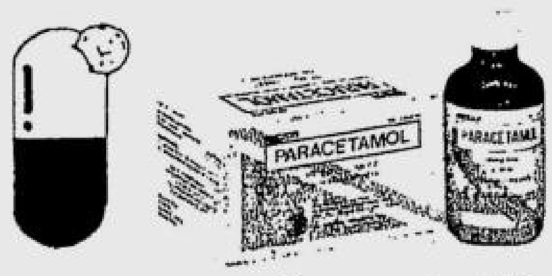
Prices Lower than Divisoria & Baclaran !
BARGAIN MART
Tiangge with Air-Con
San Andres cor., Guerrero St., Malate, Manila
CELLPHONES, TOYS, CLOTHES, KIDSWEAR, APPLIANCES, BAGS, SHOES, NOVELTY ITEMS, TAMIYA RACE TRACK, BILLIARDS, VIDEO GAMES
with LIVE BAND CONCERT Free !
Every Friday @ 6pm to 10pm
Join our WISH BOWL PROMO pick your luck for every purchase !
Store Hour · Sun to Thu > 10 AM 10 PM • Fri. to Sat. > 10 AM - 12 MN
Call Tel. Nos.: 400-6420/23 for info.

OWN A RESIDENTIAL UNIT
MADISON MANOR CONDO
NO RESERVATION NO DOWNPAYMENT
FIRST RESIDENTIAL CONDO IN LAS PIÑAS
W/ 2BR & PARKING FOR ONLY P1.2M+
FREE Dryer Machine for Buyers!
INFRONT OF SM SOUTHMALL
For inquiries, please call
ESTELA 0917-4356385
LITA 0918-8992282
IRENE 0919-6335896 / 932-2048
LUDY 0917-4332174

DIABETIC?
WHY GO through BITTER ORDEAL of DRINKING AMPALAYA
Bittertaste? Boiling? Inconvenience of drinking?
NOW YOU can have CONVENIENT AMPALAYA or M. CHARANTIA CAPSULE
With other potent vegetable herbs.
ABS BITTER HERBS
BFAD FR-24465
P8.00/cap
TESTIMONIAL:
My son MIKKO AMARILLO 10 yrs old is a juvenile Diabetic (insulin dependent) since he was 6 yrs old With continous taking of 3 capsules per day after meal of ABS Bitter Herbs for a month his insulin injection before bedtime decreased gradually from 57 units to 36 units ABS Bitter Herbs is an effective compliment to my son's medication
MA. TERESA AMARILLO Diliman, Quezon City
Product of ABS • GEN International
AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT SELECTED
mercury drug
Imart
For Deliveries call: 781-11-11
GNC Live Well • New South Star Drug • SM Family Drug
ACCEPTING PROVINCIAL DEALERS
INQUIRIES: 435-00-86 • 928-30-57 • 435-88-17

FAME AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC SHOWER
Gives you instantaneous warm running water when you need it
- Automatic, Operates with water flow only No need to switch it on or off everytime
- Continuous warm water - without limit.
- Low cost-Energy saving - Consumes electricity only when water is flowing (271 watt for 5 mins.)
- Simple installation - No double piping required. Connect directly to cold water main supply.
- Safe operation - manufactured under the most rigid safety norms.
- Compact Size - No storage tanks required
- All desired temperature simply by regulating the flow of water through tap, more water, less hot, less water, warmer.

DISTRIBUTED IN THE PHIL. BY:
ELECTRICAL & EQUIPMENT SALES CO., INC.
211 KATIPUNAN AVE., BLUE RIDGE, Q.C.
TELS.: 913-2692; 913-2678; 913-2662; 913-2254 913-2474; 913-5414; 913-6193; 943-6189
665 TOMAS MAPUA (Misericordia) ST., MANILA
TELS.: 733-8194 to 97; 733-3455 733-3472; 733-3460


DLI GENERICS
PARACETAMOL
QUALITY NA MURA PA SA BOTICA
Suggested Retail Price

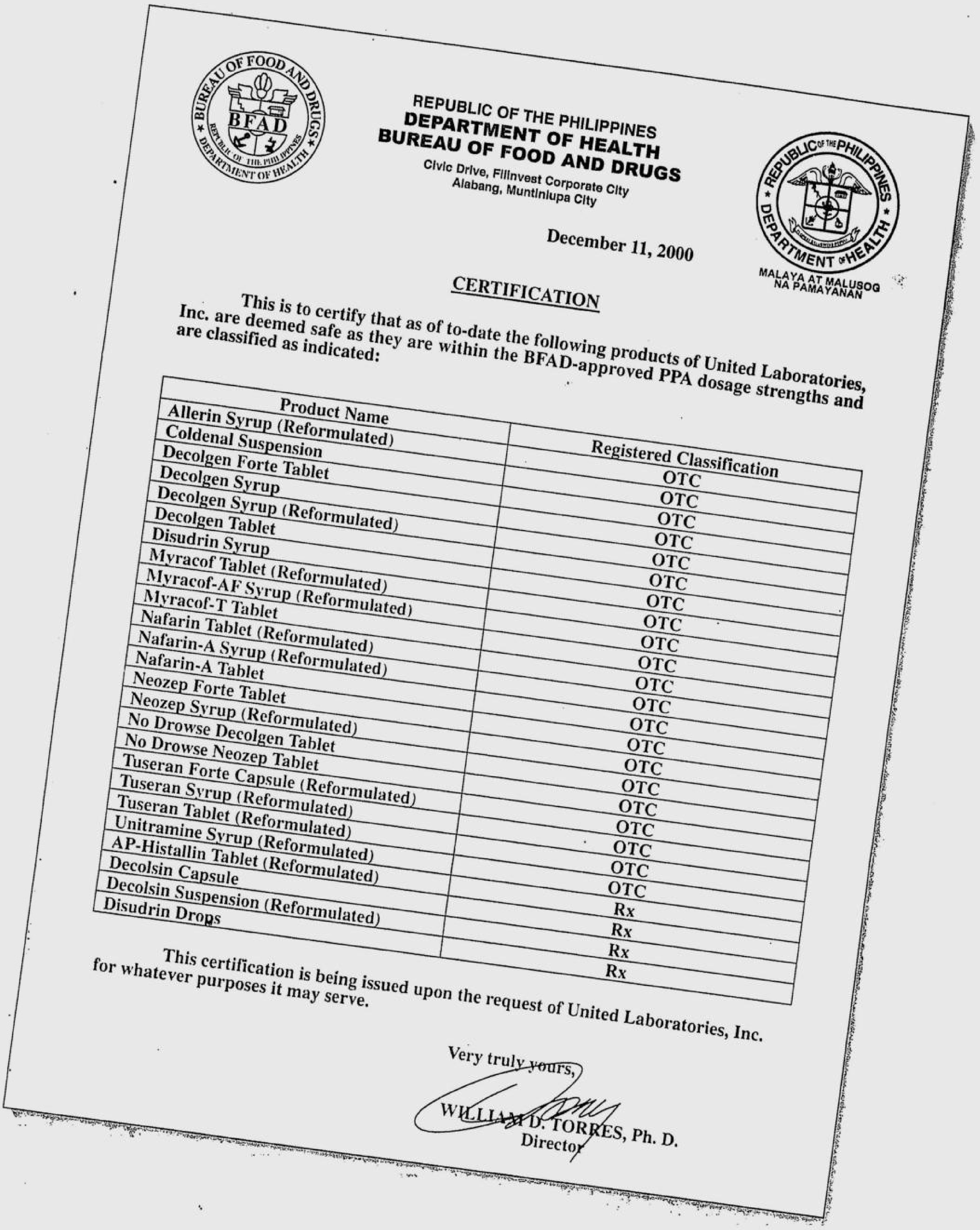
	Price		Price
Ambroxol Capsule 75 mg	6.50	Diclofenac Sod. Film Coated Tablet 50 mg	4.70
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	3.75	Glibenclamide Tablet 5 mg	2.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	6.00	INH - Syrup 100 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	45.00
Amoxicillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	45.00	Isoniazid Tablet 300 mg	1.50
Ampicillin Capsule 500 mg	7.25	Loperamide HCl Capsule 2 mg	2.75
Ampicillin Powder for Injection 500 mg. vial	35.00	Mefenamic Acid Capsule 250 mg	2.50
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	45.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg	1.75	Multi-Vitamin Syrup 60 mL	56.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.50	Multi-Vitamin Tablet	3.00
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	49.00	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	36.50
Cephalexin Capsule 500 mg	11.00	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	0.90
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	63.00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	75.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam-PZA 300/450/500 mg	27.00/day	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	15.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam 300/450 mg	18.00/day	Salbutamol Syrup 2 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	42.00
Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg. SMZ-200 mg). 60 mL	56.00	Salbutamol Tablet 2 mg	1.75
Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-80 mg. SMZ-400 mg)	4.00	Vitamins B1 + B6 + B12 Tablet	3.50

Member: Generic Association of the Phil., Available nationwide (not yet available in Mercury Drug)
Address: 3rd Floor Lawyers Coop. Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-3933, 741-7763, 712-4990, 741-9203, 743-1620, 743-1626 FAX: 712-4921, 743-1633
E-Mail: pacific@DLI-Generics.com Complete FACTORY PRICES available at WEBSITE www.DLI-Generics.com
DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

Restore Firm, Resilient Skin
the target : sagging face and neck muscles
the reverse ageing force:
Neck Toning Treatment
Using some of the most advanced techniques from New York and Paris, the treatment firms, tones, and protects the neck to greatly diminish the onset of sagging effects, reduce wrinkles, and give the neckline shapely beauty.
Skin Tone Re-energizer
Uses low-frequency microcurrent impulses to firm, tone, and re-energize facial and neck muscles to prevent further deterioration of ageing skin. Through STR, facial contours improve immediately, little crow's feet and lines are minimized. So all you'll have is firm, wrinkle-free, younger-looking skin.
REVERSE AGEING. Call Facial Care Centre NOW!
Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

MAKATI	NEW LOCATION ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CEBU
817-3323	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	242-2148	233-7631
812-6080/81	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	242-2185	233-7633/35
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	687-2198 • 687-2199 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Federal Tower Bldg. Dasmariñas St.	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)
e-mail add.: fcc@i-manila.com.ph



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

December 11, 2000

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that as of to-date the following products of United Laboratories, Inc. are deemed safe as they are within the BFAD-approved PPA dosage strengths and are classified as indicated:

Product Name	Registered Classification
Allerin Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
Coldenal Suspension	OTC
Decolgen Forte Tablet	OTC
Decolgen Syrup	OTC
Decolgen Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
Decolgen Tablet	OTC
Disudrin Syrup	OTC
Myracof Tablet (Reformulated)	OTC
Myracof-AF Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
Myracof-T Tablet	OTC
Nafarin Tablet (Reformulated)	OTC
Nafarin-A Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
Nafarin-A Tablet	OTC
Neozep Forte Tablet	OTC
Neozep Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
No Drowse Decolgen Tablet	OTC
No Drowse Neozep Tablet	OTC
Tuseran Forte Capsule (Reformulated)	OTC
Tuseran Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
Tuseran Tablet (Reformulated)	OTC
Unitramine Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
AP-Histallin Tablet (Reformulated)	Rx
Decolsin Capsule	Rx
Decolsin Suspension (Reformulated)	Rx
Disudrin Drops	Rx

This certification is being issued upon the request of United Laboratories, Inc. for whatever purposes it may serve.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph. D.
Director

YOUR SAFETY IS CERTIFIED

The Unilab preparations for cough, cold and flu that you and your family have been taking for years contain low doses of Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) and are certified safe.

The Department of Health has observed that "in the more than 40 years that PPA has been in the Philippine market, there has been no report of any serious drug reaction linked to the use of PPA-containing cough-cold medicines."

These products can be purchased as usual from leading drugstores and other outlets. Thank you for your continued support.

UNITED

UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.

Villar cries harassment

By Volt Contreras

FORMER Speaker Manuel Villar yesterday said he was being harassed by the administration, saying a bomb threat to his real estate offices fits a pattern of harassment reminiscent of martial law.

The Las Piñas congressman, who lost the House leadership for turning against President Estrada by hastening the impeachment process initiated in the chamber, yesterday claimed that an office of his real estate firm had received bomb threats.

In a statement, Villar said the office staff of Carmella and Palmera Homes on Aurora Boulevard corner Lantana in Cubao, Quezon City, got the threat on the phone from an anonymous caller Tuesday morning.

Villar said he was the latest member of the opposition to be harassed for his stand in the ongoing impeachment trial, saying the situation was reminiscent of repressive political environment during the martial law era.

He also cited the revived graft charges filed against House Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte, manager' of the 11-member prosecution team in the trial, the death threats also received by prosecution witnesses, and the wire-tapping operations allegedly conducted by intelligence agents on opposition leaders.

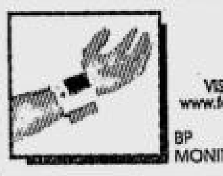
In the historic Nov. 13 session, then Speaker Villar literally ignored objections raised on the floor by pro-Estrada congressmen as he read out the chamber's endorsement of the four Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial.

Villar said the cases of harassment "remind us of Martial Law, threaten to narrow the democratic space we move in."

"The tactic of harassing opposition members is something not consistent with democratic principles and must be immediately stopped," decried Villar.

Such threats, however, says Villar, will not intimidate the opposition and will only spur them to be more vigilant.

"I just hope that these scare tactics and harassment are not a prelude to something that will endanger our democracy," added the Las Piñas solon.



PRE DEVALUATION SALE
NERVE STIMULATOR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.fareastmedical.net
BP MONITOR
UNTIL JANUARY 15 ONLY
BODY TONER
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
FLY PAD
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 4'8-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Pin Plaza 453-3326
SM SOUTHMALL
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN
CEBU 253-32-30

NO PRICE INCREASE!
INDOOR-OUTDOOR SAMPAYAN
FREE Frazer Cordomatic single line clothesline From Nov. 13 to Jan. 28, 2001
PARALINE FOLDING FRAME
18X22M
FOLDABLE CLOTHES LINE
HEAVY DUTY • SPACE SAVING • STYLISH
METRO MANILA: • Ortigas Center • ACE HARDWARE Megamall • THE HANDYMAN - Park Ave., Galleria • TRUE VALUE HARDWARE Shangrila Plaza • MC HOME BUILDERS Meralco cor Ortigas • Makati: • HARDWARE WORKSHOP - SM Makati • TRUE VALUE HARDWARE Park Square 1, Ayala Center • MC HOME BUILDERS - Pasong Tamo cor Edsa • TRUE VALUE HARDWARE - Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center • Quezon City: • HARDWARE WORKSHOP - SM City • HARDWARE WORKSHOP - SM City Annex Bldg • THE HANDYMAN - Walter Mart Visayas • THE DIY SHOP - Ever Commonwealth • Alabang • TRUE VALUE HARDWARE - Town Center • ACE HARDWARE - Festival Mall • ACE HARDWARE - SM Southmall • Marikina/Cainta: • TRUE VALUE HARDWARE - Sta. Lucia East Mall • Manila: • THE HANDYMAN - 3rd Level Robinsons Place Ermita • ACE HARDWARE - SM Manila Mall • PROVINCIAL OUTLETS: • Baguio: • THE DIY SHOP - Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza Quirino Hway • Bacolod: • THE HANDYMAN - Robinsons Bacolod • Cabanatuan: • THE HARDWARE DEPOT • NE Pacific Mall • Cagayan De Oro: THE HANDYMAN Limketkai Ctr • CAVITE: THE HANDYMAN Robinsons Place Imus • Cebu: ACE HARDWARE - SM City Cebu • Dagupan City: • CSI The City Mall Lucao District • Davao City: • CITIHARDWARE - J.P. Laurel Bajada • CITIHARDWARE - Dumaguete Matina • THE HANDYMAN - Gaisano Mall J.P. Laurel Ave • Iloilo City: • THE HANDYMAN - Mary Mart Mall • ACE HARDWARE - SM Iloilo • Laguna: • THE HANDYMAN - WalterMart Sta. Rosa • Legaspi City • THE HANDYMAN LCC Center, Penaranda • Pangasinan: • THE DIY SHOP - Magic Mall

Ethics body takes slap for verdict

THE HOUSE ethics committee has itself taken a hard slap for its decision to soften the penalty it meted out to Rep. Jose Ma. Gonzalez (LAMP, San Juan) in the slapping incident that occurred during the impeachment of President Estrada.

Representatives who criticized the penalty questioned the process by which the committee led by Rep. Alipio Badelles (LAMP, Lanao del Norte) reversed its original decision to expel Gonzalez and threatened to pursue their complaint on the House floor when the regular session resumes on Monday.

In a hearing Wednesday that was marred by a walkout, the committee disregarded an earlier "gentleman's agreement" among them to expel Gonzalez, voting to reprimand him instead.

The last-minute change was made after committee officers consulted with Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, who reportedly found the original penalty "too harsh."

The "arbitrary" decision to merely censure Gonzalez for slapping House sergeant at arms Bayani Fabic "was an embarrassment to the entire Philippine Congress," said Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, author of the resolution that called for the ethics committee probe of the incident.

"It is utterly shameless... and is in fact an indictment of the House that makes it guilty of protecting its own kind, no matter how despicable and deplorable their conduct may be," Rosales said.

The episode, she said, reflected the "utter inutility of the ethics committee to serve as a pillar of integrity."

Rosales said the episode was the majority bloc's way of getting back at opposition congressmen who pushed for President Estrada's impeachment.

"It became evident the majority party hid behind the slapping incident in order to get back at the minority that took the initiative in impeaching the President, " Rosales said.

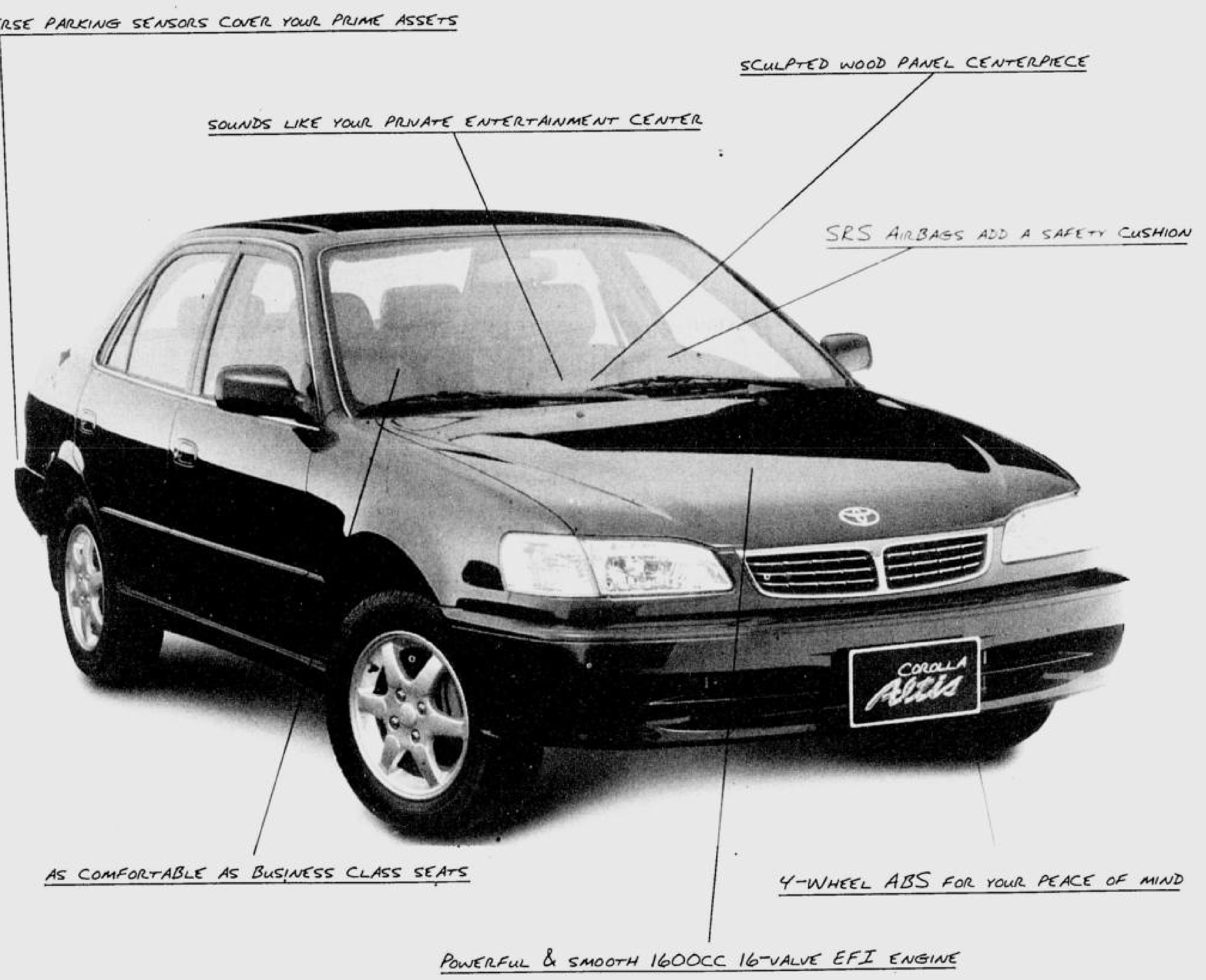
She also questioned Badelles' handling of Wednesday's hearing. "The move to overturn the decision was clearly violative of certain rules of procedure," she said.

Reversing an action already adopted by the body requires a two-thirds vote of the members present, she said. "(But) Representative Badelles arbitrarily decided to gloss over this ruling and instead ruled for a simple plurality or majority to have the expulsion decision overturned."

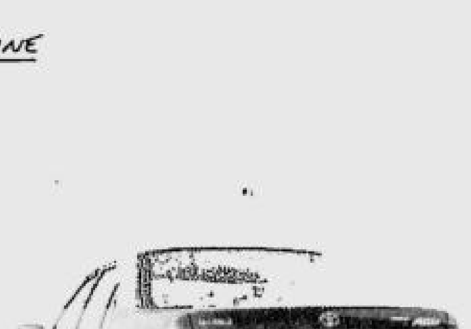
Compostela Valley Rep. Rogelio Sarmiento, a committee member who voted for expulsion, warned there would be more objections to the panel's decision when it is referred to the plenary at the resumption of regular sessions.

"The committee report (containing the decision) will surely have a difficult time on the floor," said Sarmiento, a member of the minority like Rosales.

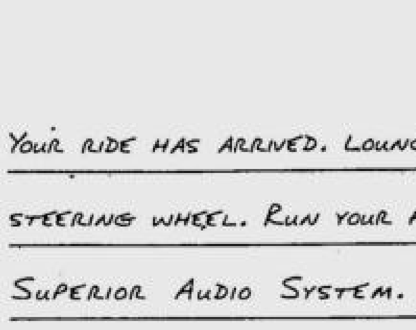
Volt Contreras

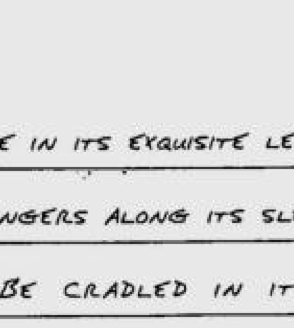


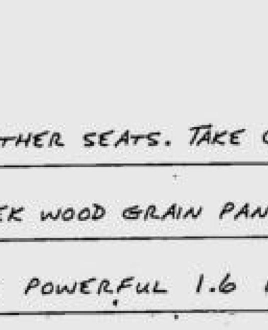
NEW COROLLA 1600 ALTIS
THE CAR THAT TRAVELS BETWEEN LUXURY AND PURE EXCESS.
REVERSE PARKING SENSORS COVER YOUR PRIME ASSETS
SCULPTED WOOD PANEL CENTERPIECE
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR PRIVATE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SRS AIRBAGS ADD A SAFETY CUSHION
AS COMFORTABLE AS BUSINESS CLASS SEATS
4-WHEEL ABS FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND
POWERFUL & SMOOTH 1600CC 16-VALVE EFI ENGINE

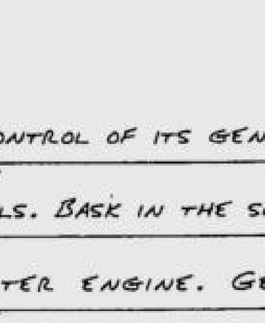


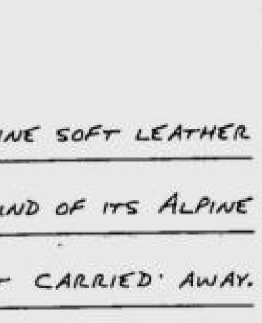
YOUR RIDE HAS ARRIVED. LOUNGE IN ITS EXQUISITE LEATHER SEATS. TAKE CONTROL OF ITS GENUINE SOFT LEATHER STEERING WHEEL. RUN YOUR FINGERS ALONG ITS SLEEK WOOD GRAIN PANELS. BASK IN THE SOUND OF ITS ALPINE SUPERIOR AUDIO SYSTEM. BE CRADLED IN ITS POWERFUL 1.6 LITER ENGINE. GET CARRIED AWAY.
THE COROLLA 1600 Altis
WHAT A GREAT CAR SHOULD BE.


LEATHER SEATS


LEATHER STEERING WHEEL


WOOD GRAIN PANELS


ALPINE 6-DISC CD CHANGER


REVERSE PARKING SENSORS
I love this car.
TOYOTA
www.toyota.com.ph

Estrada scraps plan to dump Metro trash in Semirara

(From page A1)

(SCC) bulldozed the area ostensibly for "widening purposes."

The protesters had been staying near the Dapdap Pier since last week to make sure that the barges loaded with Metro Manila's garbage and anchored off the pier would not be unloaded.

"Who can stand against the bulldozers?" Fr. Mark Matillano, parish priest of Caluya, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "We have told the people not to fight with the machines. I don't want any life lost."

Even the ipil-ipil trees under which some of the protesters had sought shelter were bulldozed, Matillano said, citing information relayed to him by Caluya Vice Mayor Diosdado Egina.

He said Egina had advised the protesters to go home to prevent any untoward incident.

The protesters are continuing their vigil in the Caluya sub-office in the poblacion of Semirara, he added.

Egina said the "Yes to *Basura* (Garbage)" group in Semirara had taken over the area near the pier.

"They bulldozed our area for widening purposes. But now, they are taking over," Egina said.

An official of DMCI Holdings Inc., who asked not to be named, denied that the residents were forced out of their vigil area.

At the Senate hearing, Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier said the province would not allow the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara even if the government had secured all the necessary permits.

"No, we will not allow it even if they have all the safeguards," Javier said to Sen. John Osmeña's question as to whether Antique would accept the garbage if permits were secured.

"This is the problem of Metro Manila. Under the law, the disposal of garbage is a local responsibility. Why dump your garbage in our place?" Javier said.

To which Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Jejomar Binay said: "This is anarchy."

Aventajado said the Greater Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Committee, which he chairs, and the MMDA were now scouting for alternative sites in case the courts disallow the putting up of an interim facility on Semirara.

But he said DM Consunji Inc. and R-II Builders, which had been awarded the P1.4-billion contract, were still trying to obtain an environmental compliance certificate and municipal permits to enable them to proceed.

The government is asking the Court of Appeals to lift the TRO issued by the Antique Regional Trial Court that had stopped the MMDA from dumping garbage on Semirara.

The Senate has sought an investigation of the deal approved by Aventajado and the MMDA, because of suspicions of irregularity in the negotiated contract with the DMCI and R-II Builders Inc.

Javier and representatives of more than 50 organizations from Aklan and Antique—which included local officials, religious leaders, resort owners and professionals—trooped to the Senate hearing to express their collective outcry against the garbage dumping.

They said this would bring about an unprecedented environmental disaster in the country.

"Our citizens are losing sleep. They are keeping vigil watching the two barges and wondering when the garbage would be unloaded," Javier said.

Senators joined the mounting opposition to the interim garbage facility to be put up on Semirara.

Resolution No. 919, filed by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Majority Leader Francisco Tatad, Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Senators John Osmeña, Franklin Drilon and Loren Legarda, was backed by the rest of the senators and presented to the ECC meeting on Wednesday.

Undersecretary Sally Perez, legislative liaison officer, said all the senators had endorsed the resolution.

The senators said in the resolution that the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara, even with the requisite safeguards and clearances, constituted an assault on the environment and should be stopped.

The President had earlier given Binay 10 days to clean up the garbage in Metro Manila.

Pardo said the President would soon be making the rounds to check the gravity of the garbage problem in the metropolis.

Asked where he would dump the garbage, Binay said: "Secret."

Pardo said Binay and Aventajado had prepared a contingency plan that should now be considered because of the objections raised by the Antique and Aklan residents as well as the Senate.

But Pardo and Aventajado refused to name the alternative garbage disposal sites in Luzon that were being considered.

Bishops hit gov't plan on Semirara

By N. Bordadora and A. Donato

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines appears headed anew for a collision course with the Estrada administration over the issue of dumping Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara, Antique.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the CBCP, said that while the collegial body had yet to issue an official stand on the matter, it had always been pro-environment as a matter of principle.

"If it's going to adversely affect the environment of the island, then the bishops would expectedly be against it," Coronel told the INQUIRER.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines is more categorical on the issue.

Yesterday, the NCCP said President Estrada's alleged "penchant for short-term solutions to long-term problems" was the cause of the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

It also questioned the government's supposed plan to open 352 more areas in the country as possible dumps, saying that "open dump sites are a threat to the environment and to people's lives."

In a statement, the Most Rev. Tomas Millamena, NCCP chair, said the garbage crisis was a long-term problem that could not be solved by merely finding an alternative dump.

"It is a result of the unsustainable consumerist and highly polluting lifestyle brought about by untrammeled globalization," Millamena said.

Celia de Castro . . .

(From page A1)

affairs, and Raul Roberto de Guzman, Mr. Estrada's brother-in-law and consultant on environment and water.

Prosecutors want De Castro and De Guzman to take the stand as part of efforts to prove the charge that the President knowingly violated the Constitution by appointing relatives to government positions.

De Castro, a cousin of Mr. Estrada's, made the headlines in 1999 in connection with a foiled P3-million bribe attempt in the so-called "textbook scam." She was accused of introducing herself as the President's sister and lobbying to bag a textbook contract.

The Palace at first denied, but finally admitted that De Castro was a "distant" cousin of Mr. Estrada's and that Malacañang was retaining her as a consultant on a monthly salary of P25,000.

De Castro, reportedly an American citizen residing in Daly City, California, left Manila at the height of the scandal, while the Senate was investigating the alleged scam.

De Guzman, for his part, was in charge of the Muslim Youth Foundation, which Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed was created to launder jueteng money for the President.

De Guzman also sits on the board of San Miguel Corp. and is on the board of regents of the University of the Philippines.

The prosecutors also asked Chief Justice and Presiding Officer Hilario Davide to summon Cathy Weir, president of Citibank, or an authorized representative, to appear before the impeachment court with documents relating to bank accounts and other investment portfolios opened by or in the behalf of President Estrada and the First Lady.

More specifically, the prosecution wants Weir to produce account-opening documents, customer information sheets, IDs and specimen signature cards for savings accounts, current accounts, time deposits, numbered accounts covering investments in treasury bills and investments in long/short term commercial papers, government bonds or other investment instruments.

Prosecutors also want Weir to submit copies of other investment-related transactions including certificates of time deposits, trust agreements, treasury bills, commercial private papers, money market placements, confirmations of outright sale, special savings accounts and dollar swap purchases.

You are looking at a sign that spells savings...
It's manels
CUARENTA MANIA
2001 INVENTORY SALE
40% off
ALL ITEMS
A five day biggie savings treat for you from Jan. 12 - 16, 2001 at all our branches nationwide!
manels
MAPHISTO modaNella Pierre Cardin
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3562 Series of 2001

AN OPEN LETTER

TO OUR VALUED CLIENTS: RESIDENTS OF METRO MANILA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGU's)
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The Solid Waste Contractors Association of the Philippines (SWACAP) which is the organization of contractors serving under the Waste Collection Truck Accreditation system being implemented by the Solid Waste Management Task Force Operations Group of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) wish to seek the kind understanding and cooperation of all concerned as the effect on collection operations of the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill closure and present lack of an alternative site is now being felt in the metropolis.

We humbly appeal for your patience and seek your help in easing the burden by doing your share in responsible waste disposal.

Let us reduce the volume of waste we generate daily and start practicing segregation at the household level to support the efforts on composting, recovery and recycling.

As a start, please re-use and recycle as much as possible and segregate your wet (nabubulok) from your dry (di-nabubulok) garbage. Your respective contractors will be getting in touch with you for the schedule of separate collection of your garbage.

Thank you and we hope you share our belief that whatever small measure we can contribute to this end will go a long way in supporting the efforts in finding a sustainable solution to our solid waste management problems.

Sincerely,

SWACAP

SOLID WASTE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SWACAP)

Angara: Protests will wane

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

EXECUTIVE Secretary Edgardo Angara said yesterday the rallies against the President will "peter out" even if he is acquitted by the Senate because the people will be busy with the May elections.

Angara, who stood in for the President at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines forum yesterday, dismissed as "exaggerated" opposition claims that there will be violence if Mr. Estrada is acquitted by the Senate impeachment court hearing serious charges against him.

He said anti-Estrada demonstrations could continue for one or two weeks but would "peter out because we're going into the election period."

He said it would be the opposition and the "radical" Left who would continue to mount anti-Estrada rallies, "but at a certain point, the opposition would marshal its forces toward winning the elections."

A ranking Church leader yesterday also shrugged off fears of violence erupting in case of the President's acquittal.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr., in his column, said, "While I do not excuse the likelihood of violent reactions, I simply do not feel the majority of the people, especially the poor, are angry enough at Erap to kill or maim others in protest against his acquittal."

He said the Church will issue a pronouncement immediately after the Senate court hands down its verdict on the guilt or innocence of the President to ease public tension.

"A statement from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines will carry more psychological weight than the pronouncement of only one bishop or archbishop," Bacani said.

Anti-Estrada groups, however, vowed to stage more protest actions to counter alleged moves by Malacañang to discredit them and promote a post-acquittal scenario for the President. *With Agnes E. Donato and Philip C. Tubeza*

'Fidel' blown up, says Ramos

(From page A1)

Philippine National Police for its alleged "blunders" in the investigation of the bomb attacks that killed at least 18 persons and injured close to 100.

He cited the detention and interrogation of the 11-year-old son of Chief Supt. Dionisio Ventura in front of the Dusit hotel in Makati City, and the arrest of some 20 residents of a Muslim community in Culiat, Quezon City, as evidence of the supposedly "floundering" investigation.

He said initial suggestions that the united opposition, of which he is a member, had something to do with the bombings were part of the so-called "Oplan God Save the King," which he had earlier exposed.

He said that according to this plan, the credibility of the opposition would be demolished.

Police filed charges against top leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front after the recent arrest of Ismael Abbas, a relative of a lawyer of the secessionist group, who was said to own the car which brought a bomb to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Ramos said, however, that the PNP had yet to present concrete evidence on the identities of those responsible for the bomb attacks.

Speaking of acronyms, the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM) in Davao City has come up with a take on the comic television trio Larry, Curly and Moe, or the "Three Stooges."

This time it's the "Eight Stoooges," formed from the first letters of the first names and surnames of Senator-Judges Miriam Santiago, Francisco Tatad, Blas Ople, John Osmeña, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Gregorio Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile and Vicente Sotto.

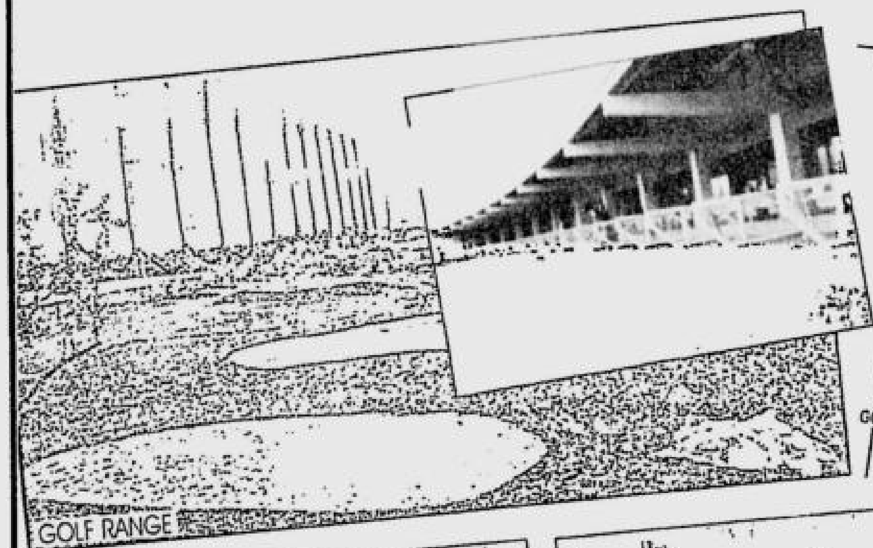
ERM co-convenor Joel Virador said these eight senator-judges had been unable to hide their bias for President Estrada in their questioning of prosecution witnesses at the impeachment trial.

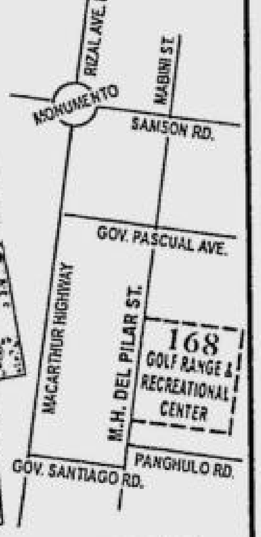
On Jan. 15, the ERM will launch in Davao City its "anti-Stoooges" campaign.

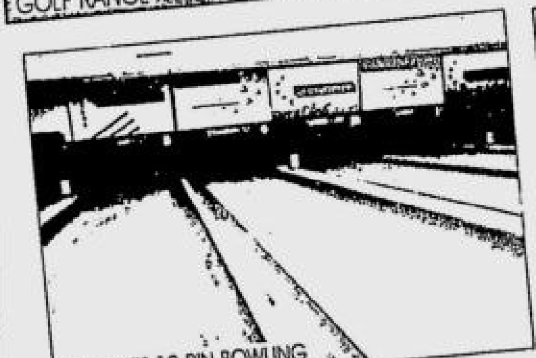
The grass roots- and school-based education campaign is intended to show how the eight senators supposedly rose to the President's defense every time incriminating information was aired during the trial.

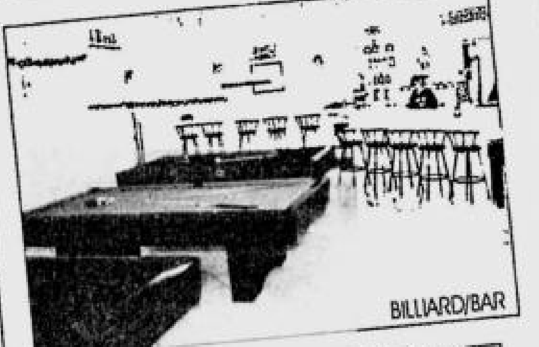
DIABETIC?
Let Nature Help Normalize Your Blood Sugar
Supplement your diet, medication, & exercise by drinking daily...
Charantia®
Ampalaya Health Drink
Pleasant Tasting
Caffeine-Free All Natural
BFAD-Reg. No. FR-21162
Charantia is made of 100% dried fruits & seeds of the Ampalaya or Bitter Melon (Sc. name: *Momordica charantia*), the only medicinal plant whose anti-diabetic potency has been scientifically validated by the Department of Health.
Now available at
mercury drug stores & other leading drugstores nationwide

168
GOLF RANGE and RECREATIONAL CENTER
MALABON
The place to unwind with family and friends.
Just relax and have fun !


GOLF RANGE




12 LANES 10-PIN BOWLING


BILLIARD/BAR

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND & SWIMMING POOL

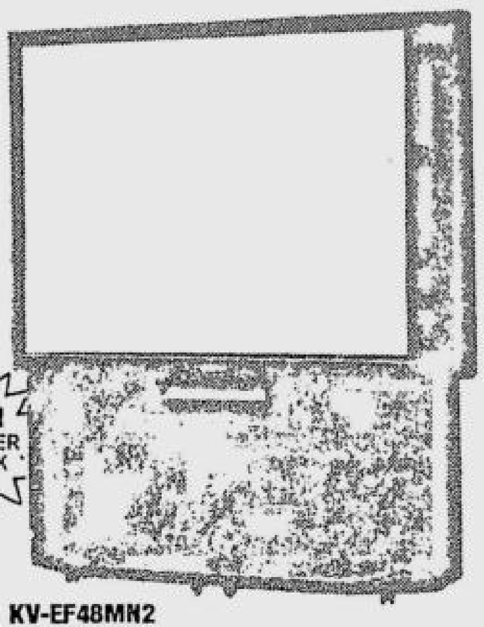
SALONS FOR MEN & WOMEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH & BUDDHIST TEMPLE

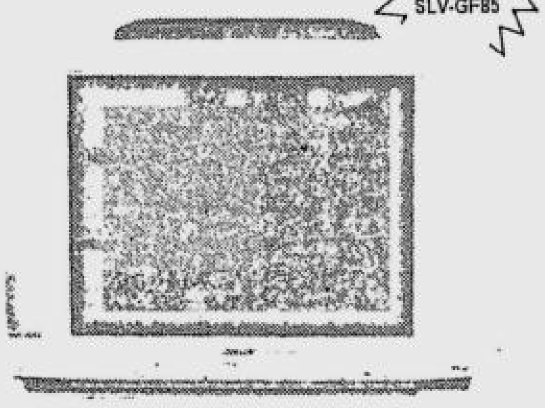
RESTAURANT
WE ACCEPT ALL FUNCTIONS AND CATERING SERVICES - UP TO 800 PERSONS. NO PARKING PROBLEM.

356 M.H. DEL PILAR ST., MAYSILO, MALABON, METRO MANILA
TELS. 4460093 / 2770338 / 2771056-57 email:susanco@i-next.net

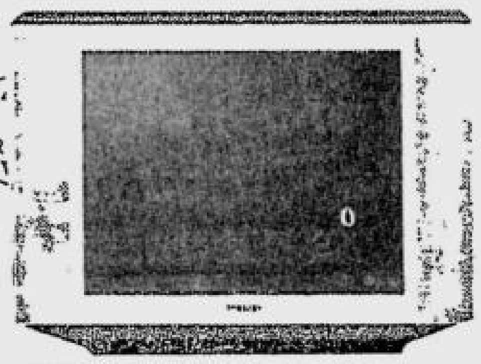
Anson EMPORIUM
HOLIDAY PRIZES GALORE!
Get a chance to win ANSON EMPORIUM Gift Certificates and Appliances
PROMO PERIOD NOVEMBER 15, 2000 - FEBRUARY 04, 2001 SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1013 Series of 2000
SONY®

FREE! VCD PLAYER MCE-S78K

KV-EF48MN2
COLOR KPR
- 121 9 cm. (48) projection tv
- enhanced tri-component screens
- super optic system
- digital comb filter for enhanced picture resolution

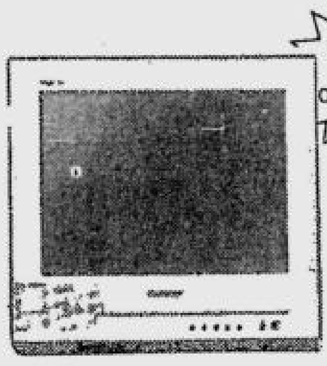
P129,900

FREE! VHS PLAYER SLV-GF85

EX 29M87
COLOR TV
- 72 4 cm. (29") fd trinitron wega
- digital reality creation
- 3d tandem woofer
- virtual dolby digital sound

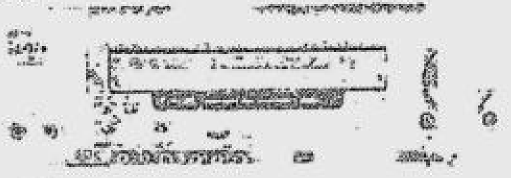
P78,800

FREE! WEGA ORGANIZER

KV-XF25N90
CTV
- 63.9 cm. (25") fd trinitron wega
- mts stereo decoder system
- video multi system capability
- intelligent picture & volume

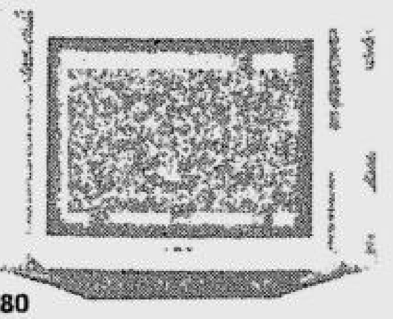
P29,800

FREE! WEGA ORGANIZER

PF14N70
COLOR TV
- 35 5 cm. (14") fd trinitron wega
- video multi system capability
- intelligent picture & volume
- single speaker

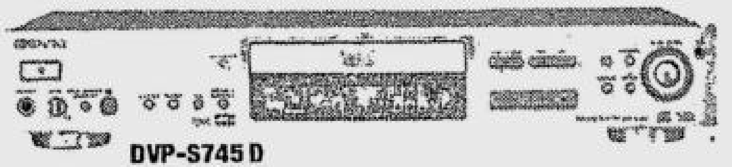
P13,800

FREE! WORLDWATCH

SLV-GF99KPL
VHS PLAYER
- hi-fi stereo
- full karaoke functions
- easy synchro recording
- virtual surround

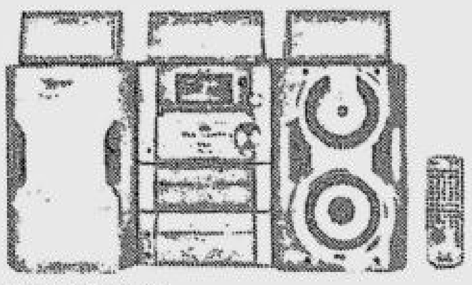
P7,999

FREE! WEGA ORGANIZER

HF 21N80
COLOR TV
- 54.5 cm. (21") fd trinitron wega
- av stereo sound
- video multi system capability
- intelligent picture & volume

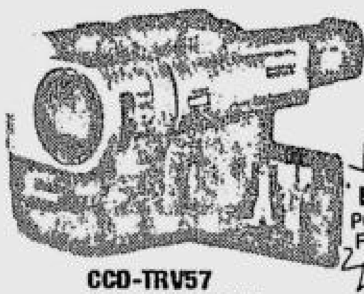
P16,800

FREE! 10 DVD MOVIE RENTALS

DVP-S745 D
DVD PLAYER
- built-in digital (ac3) 5.1 channel decoder
- built-in dts decoder
- digital cinema sound
- virtual 3d surround

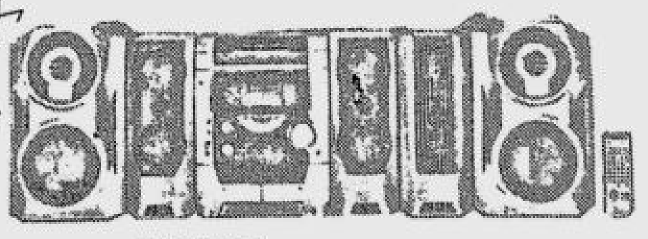
P26,990


MHC-ZX70DVD
- 3600 watts P M P O. ultra high power output
- dvd/vcd playback capability
- dolby digital/dolby pro logic
- virtual enhanced surround mode

P29,999

FREE! POLARIZED FILTER KIT

CCD-TRV57
HANDY CAMERA
- 2.5 lcd color monitor
- 20x optical zoom (360x digital)
- nightsight 0 lux
- steady shot

P27,999

FREE! VCD MOVIE

MHC-VX88
MINI VCD COMPONENT
- 6000 watts P M.P.O.
- 3 vcd changer
- cinema space sound
- hybrid dual woofer speaker system

P23,999

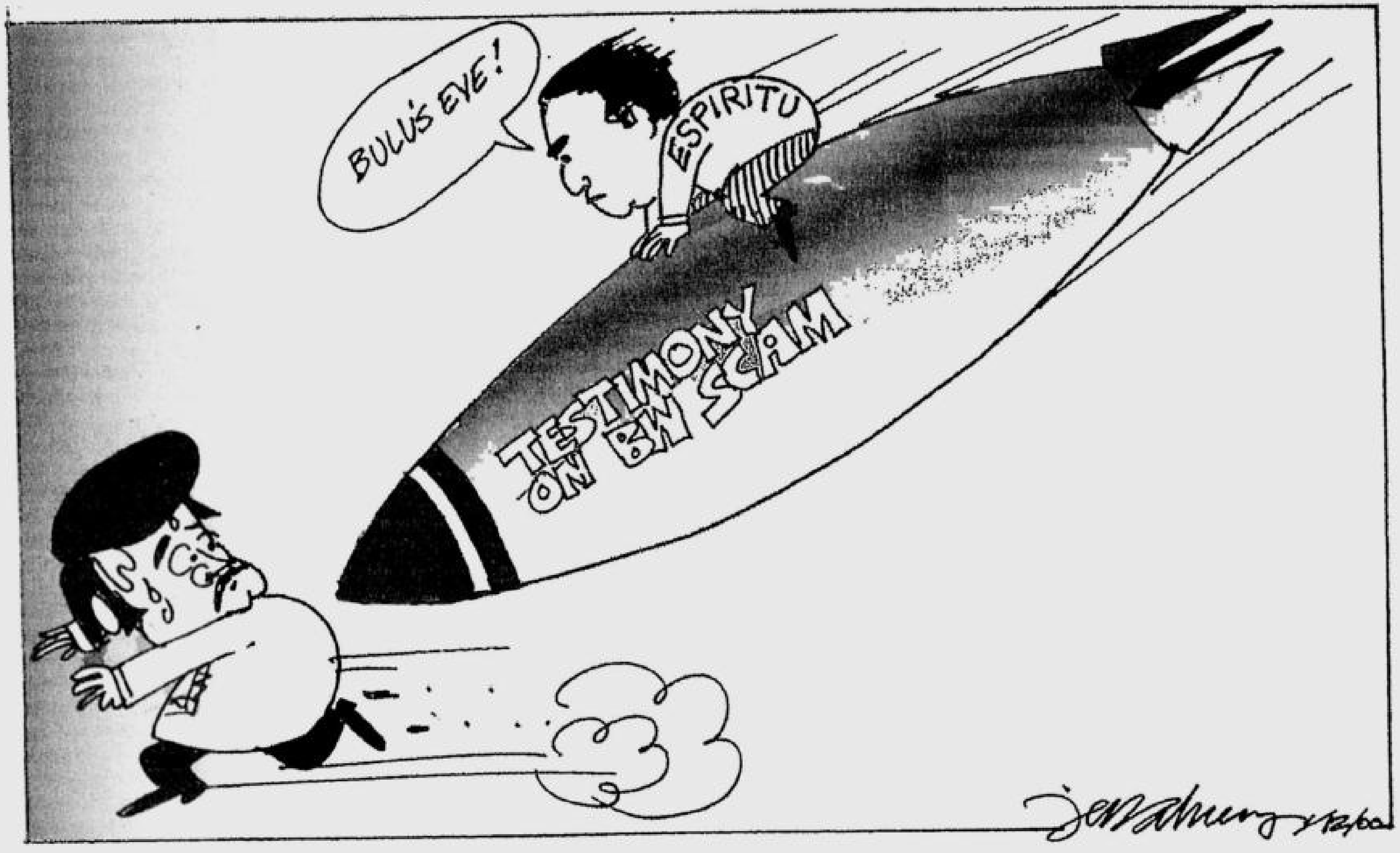
WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!

VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT:
- ANSON BLDG., AYALA CTR., A. ARNAIZ ST., MKTI CITY
  Tel.s: 843-5042/44/46; 892-2208; 892-1372/92/95
  LARGE ASSORTMENTS OF FURNITURE ITEMS AT THE BASEMENT
- ROBINSONS GALLERIA EDSA NODE LEVEL-3
  Tels.: 632-9479; 632-9482 to 85
- 3RD FLR., THE LANDMARK
  Tels.; 810-9990 loc. 2105, 2107; 819-1513 to 14, 819-1354: 817-0241
- 800 SALAZAR ST., BDO. MLA.
  Tels.: 243-2097; 243-2101; 243-2092

CORPORATE & INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTS WELCOME!
Call: 819-0701; 819-1513; 819-1354; 843-5043; 845-3006 to 08
Anson EMPORIUM

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inquirer.net



• 100% soy ink •

Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 35
ISSN 0116-2642

Isagani Yambot
Publisher

Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Editor in Chief

Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Managing Editor

Abelardo S. Ulanday
Associate Editor

Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

Nilo B. Paurom
Assistant News Editor

Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.
National Editor

Gerry Lirio
City Editor

Jorge V. Aruta
Opinion Editor

Rosario A. Garcellano
Senior Deskperson

Amando Doronila
Editorial Consultant

Marixi R. Prieto
Board Chairman

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
President

Renato R. Reinoso
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing

David O. Valdes
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services

Felipe R. Olarte
VP for Advertising

Gloria P. Lardizabal
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794. Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Idealism?

EDITORIAL

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was right after all. Graduates of the University of the Philippines College of Law usually follow a career path that takes them to progressively higher-paying jobs. "We try and get the highest salary we can get," Santiago reminded witness, Jazmin Banal, herself a UP law graduate, last week as she expressed disbelief that the young lawyer had transferred to another law firm that paid a lower salary than what the law firm of President Estrada's personal lawyer was paying.

Not surprisingly, Santiago's assertion set off howls of protests from other UP law graduates who felt that they had all been unfairly labeled as mercenaries, whose career decisions were based solely on monetary considerations. But now they have been proved wrong by one of the UP College of Law's brightest recent graduates who has come forward to demonstrate exactly what Santiago meant. The pay increases may not be all that substantial, but the career path of Maria Celia Fernandez, the salutatorian of the 1997 graduating class of the UP College of Law, has been lined with progressively richer rewards in terms of power, prestige and privilege.

Fernandez began her career in the government service at the age of 21 in 1992 as an executive assistant to then Senate President Edgardo Angara. After topping the bar exams in 1997, she joined Angara's law office as an associate. In 1998, she was named assistant corporate secretary of the Philippine National Bank of which Angara was chair and became Angara's chief of staff when he was appointed as agriculture secretary in 1999. Later she was also appointed assistant secretary. When Angara assumed the post of executive secretary over the weekend, Fernandez also became the chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

It has been a meteoric rise in the career of the young lawyer, boosted no doubt by Angara's unwavering support. But Fernandez indicated that there was nothing remarkable about her being the youngest member of the Estrada Cabinet. "All that just makes me a young PMS head," she said. "I have always considered youth as an asset. I think the youth are more energetic, more dynamic, and they have one thing that a lot of people lose when they get older: idealism. I think you need to inject a very strong sense of idealism into this government, and that is what I will be able to do."

Fernandez will certainly be bringing her youthful energy and dynamism to her new job in Malacañang. She can throw in intelligence and an attractive personality, since she obviously has both. But idealism?

Sure the administration needs a good dose of idealism, but it is very doubtful if Fernandez is the right person to introduce that virtue to the administration and the bureaucracy. There is precious little in what is publicly known of her record to suggest that idealism animates her major decisions, particularly with regard to her career. Her acceptance of the PMS post certainly doesn't look like a decision of someone who is moved by idealism. At a time when the President is facing charges of bribery, graft and corruption and other high crimes and the evidence against him is mounting, working for his administration can be anything but an act of idealism. In fact, the administration is having difficulty recruiting people with sterling reputations to fill the Cabinet jobs that were abandoned by those who felt they could no longer take the stench of scandal that permeates Malacañang. So far only she, her mentor, Angara, and another Angara protégé, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban, have joined the Cabinet. There seems to be no takers for the other vacant posts, like that of trade secretary. Could it be that the country has run out of idealists? Or is it because even vaulting ambition cannot overcome some people's reluctance to be associated with a discredited administration?

Angara and Fernandez are telegraphing the message that since they will be running the whole show in Malacañang, everyone can forget the mistakes of the past two and half years as well as Mr. Estrada's alleged violations of the Constitution and our laws. Henceforth the national government will be running like a well-oiled machine and the economy will be humming again.

They can dream on. But they should not try to sell that grand illusion to the Filipino people. Angara and Mr. Estrada's team of 30 economic advisers successfully peddled that myth during the 1998 campaign—to the nation's grief.

Angara, gambling and then Mayor Mel Lopez

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T it interesting that the political future of so many politicians are closely linked to the fate of President Estrada? If Erap is convicted, for example, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. would immediately become presidential timber. The prosecutors, too, would be favorites to win the public offices they run for. But if Erap walks, all of them would end up in the *kangkungan*.

Similarly, if Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara is able to streamline Malacañang and deliver the basic services to the people, he would have a second chance for the presidency. If he fails, or Erap and his cronies prevent him from succeeding, then his wish to retire from politics would come sooner than he expected.

For example, if Angara can solve the garbage problem, over which Secretary Robert Aventajado had miserably failed (maybe he is too busy campaigning for senator, but how can he qualify as senator when he can't even qualify as a garbage collector?; as presidential adviser on flagship projects, his ship is sinking; and if Erap is listening to his advice, then that explains why his administration is sinking, too), then Angara will come out of the stinking garbage mess smelling like roses.

Come to think of it, appointing Angara as executive secretary was the best thing Erap could do, next only to resigning. Angara has a reputation as a good administrator and leader, has brains and integrity (he has never been involved in any irregularity) and has succeeded in any undertaking he took—except of course the vice presidency.

But the odds are with him to succeed as executive secretary. He can't possibly do any worse than Ronnie Zamora. Instead of dragon ladies, he has his own young and pretty protégée, Ma. Celia Fernandez, to help him as head of the Presidential Management Staff. He has more powers than previous "little presidents" In fact, he is being called "prime minister" who, traditionally, is the head of government. There is only one reason he could fail: that Erap gets so jealous of him that the President would cut him down.

Oh, there's another reason: If Erap is convicted, Angara would have to step down with him.

* * *

In a radio interview, Angara admitted than gambling has become a big problem in the country and said that eradicating it would be one of his priorities. It has gone out of hand, he said. "You no longer know what is illegal and allowed in gambling."

Actually, Secretary Angara, the culture of gambling we now have was started by the office you now occupy. Back in early 1990, Manila Mayor Mel Lopez closed the jai alai and two government-owned Pagcor casinos based in the Silahis and Manila Pavilion hotels for being too close to two churches and a hospital. But Pagcor defied the mayor and ran to Malacañang. Then Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraeg slapped Lopez down and ordered the reopening of the casinos.

The closure was supported by the people and Malacañang's intervention created a brouhaha. "Under President Cory's administration, are gambling emporia more powerful than the mayor of the nation's capital?" asked columnist Max V. Soliven. "The message...to the people is that anybody can now fight each city and municipal mayor as long as they (the gambling lords) can wave a piece of paper from Malacañang saying they are above local laws and ordinances. Sure, in an imperial presidency, what the chief executive decrees may be the supreme 'law'—but when presidential power is invoked to exempt casinos from a local mayor's authority, how can the Cory regime pose as a 'moral government'?"

Soliven continued: "There is, alas, a split morality being preached and practiced in this nation. Our children are no longer learning that there is a difference between right and wrong. They are seeing, with their own eyes, that a presidential executive order or command can make even the most questionable things 'right'."

Angara, who said gambling has gone too far, can have the executive order issued by his predecessor recalled by his own President who, ironically, is a known casino gambler. Will he do it?

Lopez's anti-gambling campaign drew overwhelming support from the people. The mayor spurned the P4-million monthly donation by Pagcor (the donation is now P7 million a month and it goes directly to the mayor, vice mayor and the councilors). Black propaganda was used against him. Worse, he was charged with "abuse of authority" before the Sandiganbayan. But the law was and still is very clear: gambling houses shouldn't be too close to churches and hospitals. The mayor was only enforcing the law.

Ten years later, Lopez is no longer mayor, but that case is still pending in the Sandiganbayan, clear proof of how slow the wheels of justice roll in this country.

* * *

TODAY's Erap joke:

Erap to the press: I just learned that Atong Ang has a relative in the Senate.

Press: Really? Who is it?

Erap: Her first name in Chinese is "Bu."

The ubiquitous Mr. Ang

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

ATONG Ang is once again in the center of a maelstrom, courtesy of Ms Teresita Ang-See, the respected Chinese-Filipino community leader, to the glee of President Estrada's political enemies and the confusion of his friends. One recalls the closing scene of the Elia Kazan movie version of Steinbeck's novel when Burl Ives turns to the destructive character played by James Dean, quotes the biblical passage about Cain's being sent "East of Eden" and asks pointedly of him, "Why don't you go somewhere?" We should be so lucky.

At this stage, however, and in fairness to Mr. Ang, the allegations against him for now seem to consist principally of suspicion rather than proof. Ms See reported in a radio interview that relatives of kidnap victims relayed their suspicions to the authorities that he was involved as a mastermind or principal in some kidnap cases where he was later asked to play the role of intermediary. However, the same relatives refused to cooperate with the authorities to pursue this matter, presumably because they feared Mr. Ang's alleged connection with persons in authority.

Does Atong Ang this time find himself in the same absurd position as the innocent protagonist of Maupassant's famous short story "A Piece of String" or is he simply guilty as charged? It seems we may have some ways to go in an investigation before we can even reach a preliminary conclusion on this. Still, Mr. Ang has acquired such a reputation for being all over the place that he has laid himself open to such difficulties as this.

The situation that Mr. Ang finds himself in, however, is the same one facing all of us. Under this peculiar situation, who will credibly investigate and who will testify? Not the kidnap victims or their relatives, we are told. Nor can the authorities proceed without the cooperation of these witnesses. Yet if no one proceeds with the investigation, it will leave open the insinuation that some of these authorities may have been involved with Mr. Ang, assuming to begin with that he is guilty of these suspicions. This is a classic case of a conundrum.

There is, however, one indisputable item of record in this morass. The record of the Estrada administration may be the subject of political wrangling but it will be hard to fault it as far as kidnapping and bank robberies are concerned. The record number of these incidents prior to the advent of the present administration contrasts with their almost complete abatement after.

If the insinuation of these revelations is that Atong Ang was close to the President and was being protected by him while he was involved in these nefarious activities, the record of the Estrada administration is the President's best defense. He could not after all be both protecting Mr. Ang and thereby promoting kidnapping while simultaneously putting an end to it. A house divided against itself won't continue to house kidnappers profitably.

But if the evidence disputes any hint of presidential involvement in these matters, it does not conclusively clear either Atong Ang himself or police officers, active or retired, of involvement in kidnapping. On the contrary, there exists enough empirical evidence to show that corrupt police officers have long been syndicated in crimes against persons and property.

Consequently, these charges need to be investigated or else these crimes will recur when the vigilance of the administration wanes. The remaining questions are by whom and how, if the victims will not cooperate. These are matters where the experienced and trusted Ms See may have counsel to give us. Are there any senior officers in the Philippine National Police, and there must be some, if not many, in whom she retains trust both as to competence and to integrity?

Can she nominate a list of such investigators from whom the leadership of the PNP can select an investigating team? If it is possible for her to broker such cooperation, including that of at least some of the victims, then we may be able to move forward from this impasse. It is for this reason that community cooperation with the police is so vital. The breakdown of that relationship, including Ms See's resignation from a police-community coordinating board has presaged our current dilemmas.

As for Atong Ang, it may help himself as well as our understanding if he can fully explain how he ended up the go-between between the victims' families and the kidnappers. Silence in this case will be construed by the public against him. It may similarly help if the basis for the suspicions of him by the victims may be conveyed to us by Ms See and by Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson who has recounted similar reports on radio.

In the meantime, we wonder if it would be too much to ask the exasperating Atong Ang to walk the earth without creating a commotion with every step he takes. He is doing the country no good by adding to controversy at this disputatious time. He is clearly doing the President no good either. And he is doing no good to himself. The abyss may be only a step away.

Still, it may be wiser for us to be careful and prudent as stories of this or others of a similar nature are reported in the news by media. What is taking place is a mammoth political struggle, where both those seeking to remove the President from office and those who continue to support him are, as is both their right, fully making use of propaganda to achieve their ends. This new allegation involving Atong Ang is one such time for needing to know more facts before drawing a conclusion. Still, it may profit Mr. Ang to watch Elia Kazan's movie.

Contradictions

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRO-ESTRADA demonstrators held a rally in Makati yesterday while a Cabinet panel led by Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara presented a scintillating picture of the prospects for the nation in 2001 before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. The two scenes were full of contradictions.

The demonstrators were making the point that they had invaded and could penetrate what Estrada partisans have painted as the stronghold of the "elite and the rich." This action was pointless and unnecessary. Nobody in Makati bothered to stop the rally or tried to organize a counter-rally to confront it. The rally served no useful purpose. Putting people in the streets did not make the President innocent of the impeachment charges—his guilt or innocence will be decided by the senators acting as judges. The rally only proved that the mob was mobilized to show that the poor were behind Estrada right or wrong, insinuating that the poor are so stupid they have no notion of right and wrong.

This demonstration took place against the background of the relentless avalanche of devastating evidence coming out of the impeachment trial, such as the angry charges of Senator-Judge Rene Cayetano that the President intervened in the Vizconde massacre trial on behalf of the family of former Sen. Freddie Web. Although Cayetano's manifestation was not entered as evidence supporting the Articles of Impeachment, it did carve the large bas-relief of the charges that the President has obstructed judicial or quasi-judicial process, as in the case of his interventions in the investigations of the Securities and Exchange Commission into the charges of insider trading by BW Resources Corp. on behalf of his friend Dante Tan.

With this cascade of adverse evidence coming from unexpected developments in the trial, these rallies demonstrating animal loyalty to the President are not useful in saving him from dismissal from office.

At the Focap meeting, Angara read the President's message. In that message, the President extended his hand "to all of you—distinguished members of the media—to seek your cooperation in halting further damage to our economy and in finding a common ground to help it take off once more." He said the "self-inflicted damage to our economy, and our country, must end."

This appeal proceeds from wrong analysis. It mistakes symptoms for the cause—the cause of the crisis being the President's governance issue, not the nearly unanimous withdrawal of support by the business community, including the Makati "elite," from the Estrada administration. Since the withdrawal of businessmen's support is a symptom of and reaction to the President's incompetence and venalities, the pro-Estrada demonstrators are directing their protests at the wrong target.

Talking of reaching out, the President last Wednesday, in a rabble-rousing binge while inaugurating a new bridge in San Miguel, Bulacan, stepped up his retaliatory campaign against business groups who have joined the clamor for his resignation. He announced that he had ordered the Land Bank to stop giving loans to "big, greedy corporations" and instead extend loans to farmers and small businessmen. This was a cheap shot. Government financial institutions are biased toward extending loans to big companies because they back their loan applications with collaterals. If they are now defaulting in repayments, the reason is that business is bad as a result of the crisis of confidence in the Estrada presidency. Also, GFI's are reluctant to extend loans to farmers, who have weak collaterals, and small businessmen, who are squeezed to death by the economic crunch .

The rabble-rousing and demagoguery the President exhibited in San Miguel, is a forewarning of a vindictive streak that can be unleashed into a crackdown on business groups he perceives to be part of a "conspiracy" to remove him from office, once he is acquitted. It contradicts the message of "reaching out" read by Angara at the Focap.

Estrada's speech was a bad start for Angara, who has been given extensive powers to run the day-to-day operations of government, freeing the President to devote his time manipulating the poor in his rabble-rousing appearances among the urban poor and the peasantry. Estrada's speech clamped an obstacle on Angara who starts his job of giving management coherence to the government.

In his speech, the President said that Angara had taken the reins of executive secretary "at a time when the new year has brought new beginnings for this government and administration." He assured his listeners that the political crisis "has not been a hindrance from my administration's continued delivery of services and pursuit of reforms that we have committed to undertake since early on in my administration," and while he was saying this, Metro Manila was being buried by mountains of garbage, indicating a breakdown of the national and municipal governments' delivery of a basic service to the people—collection of waste.

Saying that his appointment of Angara as executive secretary and his appointment of Finance Secretary Jose Pardo as chair of the Economic Coordinating Council are changes that form part of the package of reforms, the President declared that last November, he signed an executive order prescribing a "code of conduct for presidential relatives and friends." He said, "This is the first time a President has imposed such stringent rules on relatives and close personal relations of the President, Vice President and members of the Cabinet." Apparently, no one of his relatives and friends took this "code of conduct" seriously. He himself could have forgotten it. The evidence unfolding in the impeachment trial draws a picture of the scale of corruption, involving presidential friends and relatives, in the *jueteng* payoffs, in the huge bank deposits with false signatures and the efforts to cover up movement of monies from bank to bank. Angara should not have read that speech. It was a handicap.

'Nilolotto ang boto'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE ONGOING testimony of witnesses on the BW scandal has brought back memories of that time when the media as well as rumor mills were on a boil about this brewing crisis that led to the near-collapse of the stock market.

Stories were flying like mad about the manipulation of the market, practices that to this day still have ramifications on the stock market's lackluster performance.

And well we remember, too the "Debate" show where the President himself called to chastise the guests, including Sen. Raul Roco, Ruben Almadro and former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. This was the same show where *"tamaan ka ng kidlat!"* entered the country's political lexicon.

It's only against this backdrop of scandal and political intrigue that can one truly appreciate the four phone calls made by the President personally to former PSE President Jose Luis Yulo about his good friend Dante Tan.

Would President Erap, then have to say more beyond declaring that Tan was his good friend who had helped him from way back, to get the desired result? In a culture where social transactions are conducted not directly but by inference, some senators seem to be deliberately dense when they insist on a literal interpretation of the President's words.

* * *

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was trying to be "cute" again Wednesday, but she had a point in pointing out that the report made by the Compliance and Surveillance Group of the PSE, headed by Almadro, has not been accepted or acted upon by either the Exchange or the SEC.

That neither body chose to adopt the CSG's voluminous and thorough report only shows the complicity of the stockbrokers, through the PSE board, and the Erap administration, through the SEC board, in the crime committed by Dante Tan. As Santiago conceded, that the report was not accepted is no reflection on the truth, thoroughness or quality of the report.

People seem to forget that Dante Tan and his associates and friends could not have pulled off their great scam without the help of brokers and even clients, including Sen. Rene Cayetano as he himself admitted.

The way I remember it, everyone with money to spare to play the stock market was talking about buying up BW shares before the balloon burst. Those who bet on BW and made good, such as Cayetano, were lucky. But what of those who got caught up too late in the feverish scramble for profits, and now have ended up losing their shirts? That is why what Dante Tan did is a crime. And what President Erap did could now expel him from office.

* * *

IS the President a sportsman? Not really, unless you consider all-night mahjong sessions and elbow exercises for libation "sports." Is he or was he ever a diver, shooter or military man? No. Then what was the point of Sen. Tito Sotto's intervention that the hand sign where you put your thumb and forefinger together in a circle with the other fingers raised, generally taken to mean money, means in the above-mentioned sports and occupation "okay"?

If President Erap, who made the same gesture as testified to by two witnesses, doesn't dive, shoot or engage in military games, then how could he have had Sotto's alternative meaning in mind? And granting that this was his meaning, was he sure that Almadro and Yulo engage in diving, shooting or served in the military, so they could get his drift?

The only conclusion we can draw from this story, then is that, barring shared experiences in those sports or in military life, what the President meant, and what the witnesses took to mean, was that he believed Yasay had been paid off by businessman Dante Tan.

Which brings us to Sotto's motivation for taking the floor and offering an alternative meaning for the gesture. Does he by chance have the capacity to read the President's mind? I doubt so. Could he read Almadro's mind? Certainly not, since his alternative meaning was disputed. Which means that Sotto took advantage of his two minutes not to clarify a witness' testimony, but to muddle that testimony. For what reason?

* * *

"*NILOLOTTO ang boto,*" is how some friends have jokingly termed an alleged strategy being cooked up (or "*nilululo*") by pro-Erap forces.

The way I understand it, the "strategy" is supposed to be premised on the desire of pro-Erap senators, but especially those running for reelection, not to be seen as being blatantly on the President's side in the impeachment trial. They also recognize that the testimony of witnesses so far have been extremely damaging to the President's stalwart claim that he is innocent and that the charges have no basis. So the problem arises: How to make sure the President is let off the hook, without the senators looking like servile ass-kissers? How to acquit without looking like shit—to put it crudely?

So this strategy arose. Each senator has to vote once on each of the four Articles of Impeachment. Just as it's true that the President need only be found guilty in one of the four articles to be convicted, the corollary is true: If he is not found guilty in any one of the four articles, he is acquitted.

The alleged plan, then is for each of the pro-Erap senators to vote "convict" in at least one of the articles of impeachment. But they would also make sure that in none of the four articles would there be enough votes to convict. The senators then could go back to their backers and constituents and argue: "Look, I thought he was guilty for (say) Article One, but the evidence was weak in Articles Two, Three and Four."

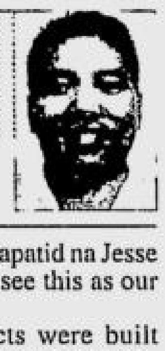
Everyone goes home happy. The senators save face. Their supporters salve their consciences. And of course the President goes merrily on his way all the way to 2004.

Everyone wins, except, of course, the Filipino people.

'Asiong Salonga,' the movie

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



YOU can tell from the titles which films of 1961 were the comedy pictures: "Outside the Kulambo," "Tindahan ni Aling Epang," "Kandidatong Pulpol," "Sariong Albularyo," and "Baby Damulag." There were two films on drug addiction and one wonders which of the two was better or even original—"Ako'y Alipin ng Opio" or "Dope Addict." Obviously a fantasy or horror picture, "Divina, Diosa ng Apoy" and "Kapitan Tornado" is beyond my imagination. Going over the list of films of the 1960s made me laugh as I saw how one film would spin off and spawn others. "The Three Musketeers" made and remade over the years had its Tagalog version, "Tatlong Mosquetero," as well as its female version, "Tres Mosqueteras" (1964). Foreign literature was not the only inspiration for film, much came from komiks: "Darna," "Gorio en his Jeepney" and "Kalabog en Bosyo." Mars Ravelo's "Darna" was followed by "Darna at ang Impakta," "Darna vs. Babaing Sputnik" and "Darna at ang Babaing Tuod."

While it has been said—in desperation—that Filipinos are copycats, I sometimes think we do more than copy. We actually make things worse. For example, Edgar Rice Borroughs gave the world "Tarzan of the Apes" and it took Filipino cinema to recreate him into "Tansan D'Mighty" (1962) that was such a hit it developed into "Tarzan vs. Tansan" (1963). Imagine the James Bond film "Dr. No" recast in the Philippines as "Dr. Yes" (1965). Ian Fleming's "Goldfinger" indigenized into "Dolpinger" (1965) and was so successful two other films followed in the same year: "Dolpinger Agent sa Dilim" and "Dolpinger Meets Oscar Obligacion." If Sean Connery made James Bond famous, we in the Philippines had Tony Ferrer who starred in a series of films that began with "Tony Falcon, Agent X-44." Imported "Captain Marvel" became "Captain Barbel," or "Plastic Man" became "Lastik Man." "Captain America" became "Captain Philippines", and "Jesse James of the American Wild West" came to Manila and became "Ang Magkapatid na Jesse at James" (1965). In retrospect, I see this as our revenge on the West.

Like today some film projects were built around popular stars. The first in a series of comedies by Pugo was "Tang-tarang-tang"; the first in a series by Susan Roces was "Susanang Daldal" and "Susanang Twist." Rival producers competed with Amalia Fuentes in "Amaliang Mali-Mali." Eventually the producers decided to cash in on both stars and made "Amaliang Mali-Mali vs. Susanang Daldal." Not all films were inane and forgettable, some have become classics like the Manuel Conde "Juan Tamad" series. A character was resurrected from Philippine folklore and made to comment on current social issues in satirical films like "Juan Tamad Goes to Malacañang" and "Juan Tamad Goes to Congress." But then Filipinos love films that do not tax the mind too much—after all, we do go to movies to be entertained. Wholesome 1960s musicals were: "Limbo Rock and Dance-O-Rama" (1963); "Pinoy Beatles," "DJ Dancetime" and "Jukebox Jamboree" (1964); "Lets Do the Jerk," "Do-Re-Mi," and "Papa Um Mamaw" (1965). Films like literature can be seen as a mirror of society reflecting the taste of the times. What was in, what was out.

Before we forget, "Asiong Salonga" premiered in March 1961 with this press release:

"All the fury and violence of the life and times of one of Manila's most-feared gangleader[s] explode on the screen of the of the Center theater where Asiong Salonga has been drawing crowds since it opened March 1.

"Larry Santiago Productions has captured the brawling, poverty-ridden atmosphere that reared the Tondo kingpin and influenced a life of lawlessness.

"Joseph Estrada, who is destined to be the big star of 1961 portrays the title role with the screen's singing sweetheart Yolanda Guevarra as his new leading lady. Guia Gomez, who thrilled the moviegoers in her remarkable performance in "Rancho Grande" as Teresa, fits in the role of Salonga's other woman, while Paquito Diaz and Vic Diaz play Erning Reyes and Totoy Golem, respectively.

"With Larry Santiago's daring reproduction on the screen of the true-to-life story of Asiong Salonga, movie observers and critics are all agreed that the motion picture industry has entered a new decade of brighter, broader prospect[s]."

Advertisements for "Asiong Salonga" grabbed attention with the line "Gun is his word, death is his joke!" Erap is shown wearing a tacky checkered coat brandishing a gun. I could not feel a strange sense of déjà vu as I read that Guia Gomez played "the other woman." Digging deeper, we find the real Asiong—Nicasio Salonga y Rodriguez—on the front page of the Manila Chronicle of May 2, 1946. He "escaped" from jail, stayed out during the presidential elections and helped Manuel Roxas gain some votes in Nueva Ecija. He and his men kept vigil at poll booths "to prevent the Huks from stopping any Roxas voter from casting his ballot." Having done his patriotic duty, he surrendered to the authorities and promised to be law-abiding. Surely there is more to the real-life Asiong Salonga than the Erap film. When the "reel" is separated from the "real" we will probably see more uncanny parallels between Erap and Asiong.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@pusit.admu.edu.ph

The impeachment trial: A political Russian roulette

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

THAT'S how President Estrada's defense lawyer Andres Narvasa described the trial in what he himself calls his "brief," published in the Asian Wall Street Journal's Jan. 10 op-ed page.

It wasn't clear in Narvasa's article though who the Russian-roulette pistol was aimed at. We can deduce from his article, however, that he thinks the gun was bought by what he terms the "Manila establishment." Why? Because it was, as he put it, "rankled" by President Estrada's "unconventional style and strong commitment to social justice."

The hand holding the pistol in Narvasa's metaphor is that of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. Narvasa calls him "a corrupt provincial governor" out for revenge at having been left out of the cold in Estrada's new scheme to legalize *jueteng*.

We object, Your Honor, on grounds of materiality and relevance. Even if Singson were the devil himself, the issue is still whether we have a corrupt President or not.

For a legal luminary, the former chief justice actually anchors his entire brief on political conjecture. His is a conspiracy theory, and Estrada's official party line. Narvasa's closing sentence in his piece shouts out that theory: "We are dealing now with raw power politics—the President's opponents are capitalizing on the accusations made by an embittered provincial governor to try to oust him from office."

Narvasa's piece provides a succinct presentation of Estrada's defense tack. However, if that is all Estrada can put up to defend himself, if that represents the caliber of his lawyers, the President should be very worried.

Article I: the "jueteng" protection money

On the complaint's article one, which charges Estrada with having received protection money from *jueteng* lords, Narvasa practically dismisses the accusations on one argument:

Singson made the charges, Narvasa wrote, "after learning that President Estrada had launched a nationwide experimental campaign for a legal alternative to illegal *jueteng* and that a political rival had been appointed as Ilocos Sur's coordinator for the new game." The impeachment, Narvasa claims, is simply "Singson's crude attempt at revenge against the President."

He conveniently makes no mention of an incident early October which Singson claimed was an attempt to kill him, and which convinced him that accusing Estrada publicly was his best way of preserving his life.

The following are the facts—just some of them—which have come out in the impeachment proceedings. Narvasa didn't mention these at all in his AWSJ piece, as if he slept through the 20 days of the trial.

- The testimony of Singson and two other witnesses that P5 million in *jueteng* money, either in cash or checks, were delivered monthly for over two years to Estrada himself, even at his very office in Malacañang. Defense lawyers have been totally unable to make the slightest dent on these testimony.
- The ledger surrendered by Yolanda Ricaforte, allegedly Estrada's auditor for the *jueteng* payoffs, corresponds almost exactly to Singson's own listing of *jueteng* protection money collections and disbursements.
- The testimony of bank officers and the documents they provided showing that Ricaforte received from Singson more than P200 million—which the governor claimed was the accumulation of protection money since 1998. Ricaforte issued checks on these funds which ended up with Estrada's personal lawyer, Edward Serapio.
- Estrada's admission himself before a crowd of a hundred foreign correspondents and diplomats that his lawyer Serapio did receive the P200 million. The President admitted that the funds were deposited to the account of his foundation, the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, which, however, is merely a shell firm with no operations at all. Estrada's lame excuse though about the money: "He didn't know it was *jueteng* money."

Article II: P130-M tobacco kickback

Narvasa's defense with regard to the allegation that Estrada got a huge kickback from he tobacco tax funds rests on two points.

First, that documents show that it was Singson who was the payee for the budget department's checks. But the prosecution doesn't at all deny that. What Singson is alleging is that the cash was eventually taken by Estrada's buddy, Atong Ang, and then delivered to Estrada himself.

What Narvasa didn't mention at all: the branch manger of Land Bank, a government bank, testified and provided documents showing that people who turned out to be Ang's representatives eventually withdrew the cash.

Amazingly, Narvasa's second point for Estrada's defense is one the defense panel didn't bother to make, but which Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile did.

As Narvasa put it in his article, Singson and Ang "couldn't have delivered the P130 million in cash to the President's private residence." Even if these were in P1,000-bills, Narvasa wrote, "it would fill two refrigerator-sized boxes." "It is inconceivable that the two of them could have physically carried this to the President's house, and in full view of a number of visitors, " Narvasa argued.

Again, Narvasa doesn't seem to have listened to the testimony presented in the trial. A witness whose daily job involves cash, Land Bank branch manager Caridad Rodenas, testified that P40 million of the tobacco-tax money was encashed by one Alma Alfaro, whom Singson claimed was Ang's representative. Rodenas testified that Alfaro carried the money out of the bank "in four bags," assisted by three companions.

Singson testified that it was Ang who actually delivered the money in one evening in August 1998 to Estrada, who an hour later told him that he received only P90 million. Based on Rodena's testimony that P40 million could be put in four bags, P90 million could be put in nine. Is it inconceivable that Ang and his usual coterie of bodyguards, could carry P90 million in cash in nine bags, into Estrada's house?

Unsurprising though, Narvasa's article didn't have a single word on Estrada's secret "Jose Velarde" bank account. Neither on the attempt when the trial was going on to cover up the existence of that account. Neither on the "Velarde" check used to pay for a mistress' mansion. After all, for the defense panel, all these revelations which have shocked the nation, are "immaterial and irrelevant."

Narvasa however certainly had an apt metaphor, calling the impeachment a "high-stakes game of political Russian roulette."

We think though that an acquittal would mean the chamber with the bullet coming up, and then the killing of confidence in constitutional processes and of hope over political normalcy.

The Russian-roulette pistol is aimed at the nation's temple, and it is Narvasa's client who holds it.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

Before Maynilad and now

THIS refers to the forthcoming public hearing regarding Maynilad's prospective price increase.

I have been living in Leveriza, Manila, for 21 years, among more than 3,000 urban poor families. For so many years, before Maynilad took over, our experience with water service has been pitiful, if not tragic.

Water came in drops. I would literally wait for an hour or more before a small pail gets filled with water. Many times, there would be no water at all, with no warning. Sometimes this situation would last for three days, without a drop, without water supply in tanks from Nawasa to help out in this crisis.

The situation has improved remarkedly since Maynilad took over ownership and operation. Water runs from our faucets 24 hours a day. Supply is plentiful. We no longer wait for hours to fill a drum. During rare water interruptions, we are informed ahead of time so that we can collect water. More than this, during this crisis, water tanks carrying hundreds of gallons of water come every day to meet our basic need.

Considering the above, we dread the day when Maynilad will no longer be able to serve the poor because our government fails to fulfill its obligations, directly affecting the life, health, physical security and sanitation of millions of poor people.

If we have good service as we experience now, we do not mind a price increase. We congratulate Maynilad on what it has accomplished during its few years of operation.—**SR. CHRISTINE TAN, coordinator, Alay Kapwa Christian Community, 2172 Fidel Reyes St., Malate, Manila**

Stricter measures for new accounts

IN THE LIGHT of the testimony of Caridad Rodenas, the Land Bank Shaw Boulevard branch cashier, in the impeachment trial, may I suggest that the following procedures be adopted by banks in the opening of new accounts:

- Instead of merely making photo copies of identification cards or documents, the same should be electronically scanned for clearer image resolution.
- A new depositor should be requested to submit a recently taken clear photo of himself/herself, to be attached to the application form.
- Alternatively, for the convenience of a new depositor, the bank should take a picture of the depositor, using a digital camera so that the depositor's photo image can be stored in the bank's computer, for easy retrieval and use in identifying the client whenever he/she transacts business with the bank.
- Finally, a new depositor should be required to execute an affidavit stating that he/she is the person whom he/she represents to be, that the identification documents he/she has submitted are truly his/hers and are authentic and that the information contained therein are true and correct of his own knowledge.—**FRANCISO S. DE GUZMAN, F.S. De Guzman and Associates Law Offices**

Don't blame God for Erap

IN SAYING "God gave us Erap," Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino simply ignored the fact that in the long biblical history of Israel, God chose only morally upright leaders for His chosen people. In the case of King David, he lost a beloved son as punishment for adultery with a married woman.

In a democracy, it is the people's moral responsibility to choose the best leader who can chart a nation's destiny toward the right direction according to God's plan. It was 10 million people, or only one-third of the electorate, who gave us Erap, not God. If one count of adultery deserved punishment from God and is a ground for disbarment, there is enough reason to impeach the President today.

The truth that Aquino denies is that it is leaders like Estrada and their equally self-serving political supporters like Ninoy's siblings who give the nation suffering and misery. While calling the President a "public sinner," Aquino still would like people to believe that "Mr. Estrada can use his own example to turn the nation around from its sinfulness and weaknesses." But with a married woman allegedly added to his growing number of child-bearing mistresses, a dramatic conversion like St. Augustine's for President Estrada is highly improbable.

The Decalogue being superior to man-made laws, with the President proving himself without the moral ascendancy to rule our Catholic nation, God is now giving our senators a chance to rectify the serious defects of a multi-party system through the impeachment process. Contrary to defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza's opinion, it is not the will of those who put the President in office but that of 20 million Filipinos who did not vote for Estrada which must be upheld based on the rule of the majority. If Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta and other misguided senators opt to acquit the President, will Aquino again blame God and the whole nation for another disaster for our nation?—**MARY JOAN A. ANGELES, 6 Pinto St., Rancho Estate I, Marikina City**

LIBRENG APPLIANCES
ARAW-ARAW
atbp.
0% interest
UP TO 12 MONTHS
on selected items only
MITSUBISHI
ADVENTURE
Super Sport
SYM SCOOTERS
Cha'Cha 50
SM Appliance Center
PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN
THE LONGER, THE LIGHTER

SANYO
Refrigerator SR-507 NTD
- Semi-Automatic Defrost System
- Built-in Power Regulator
- W/ Key Lock

PHILIPS
Flat CTV w/ Free TV Stand 29PT 6031
- Space Saver
- w/ two built-in glass shelves for easy to find accessories

CONDURA
Refrigerator CPS-6TD
- W/ Optimum Freezer Space
- W/ Built-in Rollers & Adjustable Levelers
- Anti Rust Design

SAMSUNG
Refrigerator SR-34 NMA
- CFC Free
- Dynamic Multi-flow System
- Low Energy Consumption
- Easy Clean Shelves

JVC
CTV AV-29 R8B
- 73 66cm Screen
- Real Flat Picture Tube w/ Dynamic Focus
- Auto Video Noise Reduction (VNR)

AIWA
CTV TV-AS 2180
- w/ Child Lock
- Powered Subwoofer Included
- Stereo Tuner System

SONY
CTV KV-PF21N70
- Wega Series
- Real Flat Picture Tube
- Cable Ready

CARRIER
Aircon APMRT 090BA
- High Energy Efficiency
- Quite Compressor
- Automatic Thermostat

JVC
Cassette Recorder RC-S202
- Automatic Frequency Control
- Built-in Mic
- FM Stereo Indicator

SHARP
Washing Machine ES-3300TFB
- Multi Cycle
- Mechanical Timer Controls
- Double Wash Action

HANABISHI
Gas Stove HGS-850
- Automatic Ignition
- Rust Proof
- Easy to Clean

LG
Washing Machine WP-810G
- 5 kg. Capacity
- Triple Wash Selector
- Transparent Wash Cover

DAEWOO
Vacuum Cleaner RC 7005S
- w/ Triple Filter System
- w/ 3 Attachments
- 1500 Watts

TECNOGAS
Range Hood 370 ASP 600
- Durable, Stainless Steel Body
- Dual Filters
- 3 Speeds w/ Built-In Lamp

AMERICAN HERITAGE
Coffee Maker AHCM-240
- 12 Cup Capacity
- Translucent Water Tank
- Safety Thermostat

3D
Microwave Oven WP-800 8020
- Weight & Jet Defrost
- Variable Cooking Power
- Push Button Digital Control

Promo Mechanics

Every P1,000.00 worth of purchase, single or accumulated, from any SM Appliance Center outlet entitles you to a raffle coupon. Or use your Citibank Credit Card and get an additional raffle coupon with each P 5,000.00 transaction for a chance to win one (1) of the eight (8) appliances to be given away DAILY and a chance to win one (1) Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport and one (1) of six (6) Cha'Cha 50 Scooters during the jackpot round.

SYM MITSUKOSHI
MITSUKOSHI MOTORS PHILS. INC.
CITIBANK

SM Appliance Center

SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
Promo Duration: November 17 to January 15, 2001
Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 1650 & 1654 Series of 2000

SM CITY NORTH EDSA · NORTH EDSA ANNEX · NORTH EDSA BASEMENT · SM MAKATI · HARRISON PLAZA · SM CUBAO · SM MEGAMALL · SM CENTERPOINT · SM SOUTHMALL · SM CITY BACOOR · SM CITY FAIRVIEW · SM CITY CEBU · SM CITY ILOILO · SM CITY MANILA · SM MANDURRIAO · SM CITY PAMPANGA
920-6665 · 927-6578 · 927-2650 · 816-1178 · 521-2131 · 911-1150 · 633-5075 · 715-0534 · 800-3513 · (046) 417-0258 · 417-6795 · (032) 231-0122-36 · (033) 320-6355 · 523-8593 · (033) 320-5213 · (045) 961-6867

Thanks to the women witnesses

THE CONCERNED Women of the Philippines would like to express its gratitude to the impeachment trial witnesses, particularly the women—Carmencita Itchon, Emma Lim, the Equitable PCI Bank managers and officers (Annie Ngo, Clarissa Ocampo and company)—for giving us inspiration and hope this past holiday season. Their shining example of selfless courage to do what most men would be afraid to do, that is, to testify in spite of fear and repercussion from the most powerful forces in the country, certainly brightened an otherwise gloomy and tense year-end.

Most notably, these witnesses told what they knew in plain language, simply and quietly. They did not resort to tears, melodramatic references to themselves, or "medical" excuses. Truly, they are worthy not only of admiration but emulation from all of us Filipinos. May God shower them with His special blessings, and may their tribe increase!—**EVELYN LAO KILAYKO, chair; ANGELINA BARRERA CATAJOY, vice chair, political affairs committee, Concerned Women of the Philippines, 265-C Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

A unique cab driver

IN THESE times of turmoil and crisis, allow me to tell you an inspiring story.

A few weeks ago, my friend Adrian left his new mobile phone in a taxicab he took going home. Agitated, Adrian then came to my place and we tried calling up his phone. After several attempts, a lady answered. She was a passenger in the same taxicab. It appeared that the taxicab driver did not know how to take our call. Adrian then talked to the driver and requested him to return the gadget. The latter agreed right away. His name is Armando Lipata, the taxicab's plate number is PXE 212, and Cosu Uji is the taxicab company's name.

At the appointed time and place, Mang Armando arrived and handed the phone to Adrian. Unfortunately, Adrian only had P200 in his pocket at that time. It took some time before he convinced Mang Armando to accept the money, not as a reward but for gasoline expense. The taxicab driver believed that while he was doing Adrian some good, he was doing his conscience a big favor first and foremost. I couldn't believe this. Although I was not able to meet Mang Armando personally, it was a most heartwarming experience nonetheless.

Thus, as the Jubilee Year comes to a close, I would like to make public my forgiveness of all abusive, rude and inconsiderate taxicab drivers who have made me blow my top many, many times. Forgiveness too for the taxicab drivers who decided not to return the cell phones that my other friends left in their taxicabs. It took Mang Armando and his golden heart to restore my faith, to some extent, in the often hidden goodness of the Filipino. Kudos too to the lady passenger for exhibiting honesty in a country where stealing and corruption have become culturally enrooted.

During the last holiday season, when my relatives argued about the impeachment drama during parties, I gathered the kids and talked about Mang Armando. Indeed, I'd rather have them become humble taxicab drivers than see them degenerated into senators who have sold their souls to the dark side.

If the impeachment process has cost me anything, it is my respect and admiration for people. Mang Armando's deed could not have come at a better time.—**HERDY L. YUMUL, C-514 GSIS Condotel, Pureza, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Tenacious survivor

JUSTICE was a tenacious survivor in last Tuesday's impeachment trial proceedings, in spite of the prosecutors' poorest performance yet. Deception employed by the defense lawyer to entrap the witness was despicable roguery in a very serious proceeding. Desperation in the camp of the defense lawyers is evident from the tactics employed.

As in the case of signing spurious documents in the office of defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza, it is again the instinctive logic of a non-lawyer, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, that made up for the inadequacy of the prosecution. Her clarificatory question asked shortly before the witness set out in search of the non-existent fake Delia Rajas may nail lawyer Sigfrid Fortun.

The defense's thrust is that Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson planned his exposé as far back as two years ago, when Mr. Estrada was barely two months in office and at the height of his popularity. It should not be difficult to track down Alma Alfaro, a longtime authorized representative of Catalina Ang, to close the link and establish the true identity of Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

US tells Mideast leaders: Time for peace pact is now

WASHINGTON—The United States bluntly told Israel and the Palestinians that the time to agree on US peace proposals was "now," as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright acknowledged deep frustration with the stalled negotiations.

"The time for decision is certainly now," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said after Albright announced that a trip to the Middle East by special US envoy Dennis Ross had been postponed indefinitely.

Albright said Ross was still expected to travel to the region but would wait, pending the outcome of security talks between Israel and the Palestinians aimed at ending months of deadly violence. "The security people are meeting, and we want to make sure that that part of the process is working and Dennis will be going, but I can't give you an exact time," Albright said.

At the meeting of Israeli and Palestinian security officials at the Erez Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, it was announced that joint patrols by the Israeli Army and Palestinian police were set to resume shortly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli public radio reported early Thursday.

The meeting was aimed at bringing calm to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel, sources close to the talks said, and the radio described the talks as a "success," quoting the Israeli delegation leader, Transport Minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Set up under the 1993 Oslo agreements, the joint patrols in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had ceased to function after the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, started three months ago.

Meanwhile, US President Bill Clinton is scrambling to cobble together an agreement on at least an outline that could lead to new negotiations before his term ends in 10 days, but he first wants to see a reduction in violence.

"We're looking right now at whether we can see some reduction in the level of violence. It's going to be important," said White House spokesperson Jake Siewert.

But, he added, "It's very hard to imagine, as we've said before, that we could see any serious negotiation, let alone a conclusion, to some of these discussions with the serious level of violence in the region." *AFP*

PARAMOUNT GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION
Paramount introduces its
Comprehensive General Liability Cover
Your protection against premises and operations exposure
Get your CGL Cover online now!
Just point your browser to
www.paramount.com.ph
Insurance made easier!
For inquiries or for more information, please contact our marketing representatives at 750-5571 or 750-5985 to 86

Clinton set to express regret for Korean slay

CLINTON

WASHINGTON—President Bill Clinton intends to issue a written statement of regret that South Korean civilians were killed at the hands of American troops during the Korean War, senior administration and defense officials said.

Clinton decided not to make a formal apology but instead to express regret Thursday at the loss of innocent lives in the 1950-53 conflict, said the officials, who discussed the matter Wednesday on condition they not be identified.

Clinton's statement will be timed with the planned release of the Pentagon's final report on an Army investigation of a July 1950 incident in which American soldiers reportedly killed a significant number of South Korean civilian refugees near the hamlet of No Gun Ri. The South Korean government conducted its own investigation and will also release its report Thursday.

It could not be learned with certainty Wednesday whether Clinton's statement would say specifically that he regretted the No Gun Ri incident or whether the statement would be cast in a broader context of civilian casualties throughout the war.

"The president will issue a statement of regret," a senior administration official said without elaborating.

Clinton earlier decided that the United States would not provide financial compensation to the survivors and families of the victims.

Although the investigations of No Gun Ri have raised highly sensitive issues, the Pentagon planned to stress in its presentation Thursday that the two governments are still committed to their long-standing alliance and to honoring the dignity of all who served and died in the war, which began when communist North Korea invaded the South in June 1950, the officials said.

The US-South Korean defense alliance dates to the outbreak of the war. It has been strained in recent years by tensions over relations with a more diplomatically active North Korea, protests over the presence of US troops in South Korea and a lengthy negotiation this year to renew the legal basis on which American forces are permanently stationed there.

'300 shot to death'

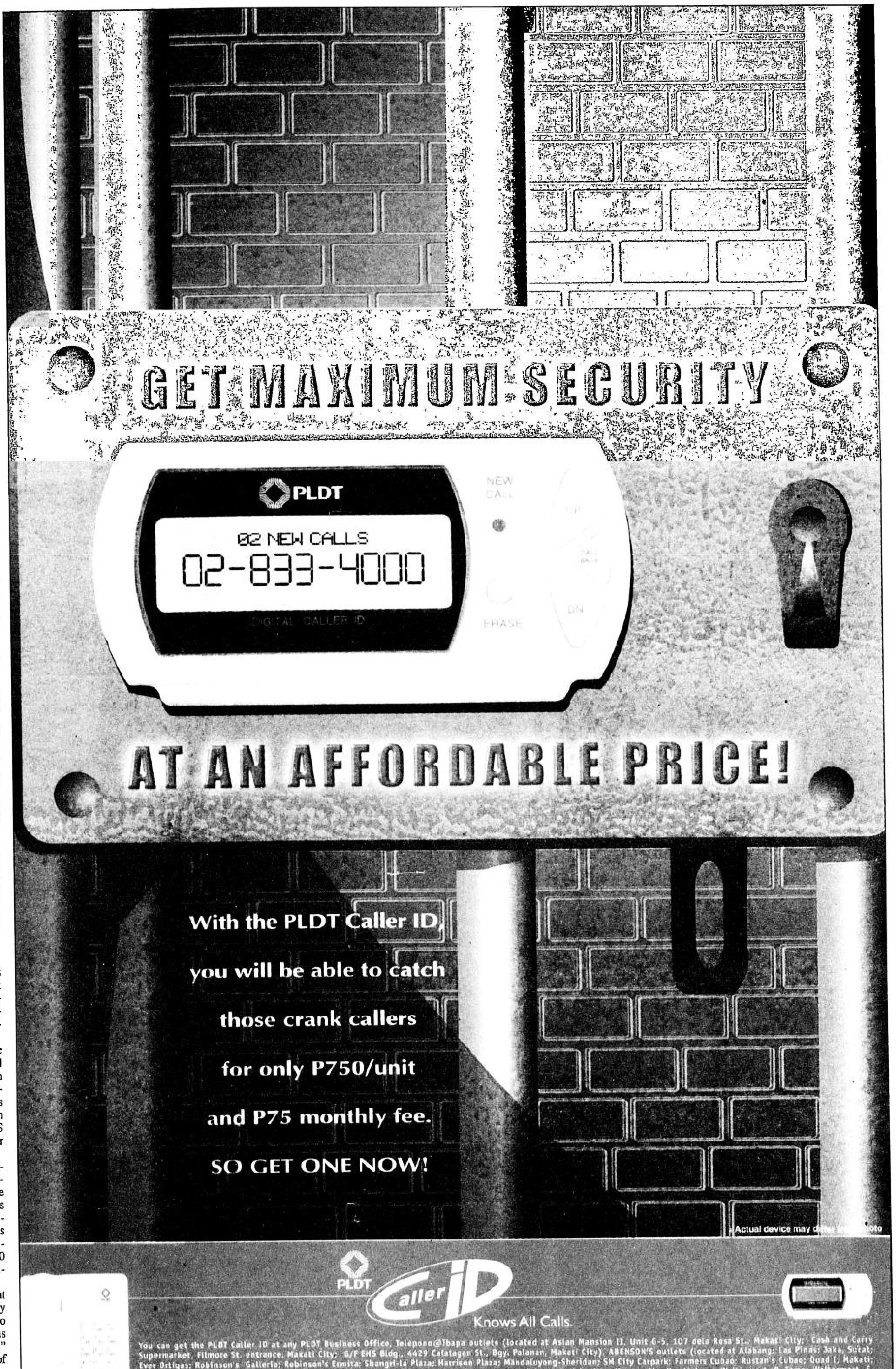
Officials said the Pentagon intended to stress on Thursday that the US troops who were sent to fight in the early weeks of the war were ill-equipped, poorly trained and led by commanders who were not prepared for the chaotic conditions.

In addition to the Clinton statement and the Army's investigation report, the Pentagon will publish jointly with the Seoul government on Thursday a "statement of mutual understanding" that was expected to enumerate the points of fact about the No Gun Ri incident on which the two governments agree, including that US soldiers shot to death an unconfirmed number of civilians.

In a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of reports on No Gun Ri, former soldiers and Korean survivors were quoted as saying a large number of refugees were killed by US troops over a three-day period in late July 1950. Ex-GIs spoke of 100, 200 or simply hundreds killed. The Koreans, who are seeking compensation from the United States, say 300 were shot to death and 100 died in a preceding air attack.

In the Pentagon's first public comment about the result of its investigation, Army Secretary Louis Caldera said on Dec. 14 in reference to the incident at No Gun Ri, "I think there was loss of life there and that was very regrettable." Caldera questioned, however, the reliability of the memories of the South Korean survivors.

The South Korean government pressed Washington to apologize for the killings, but the Clinton administration refused. *AP*



With the PLDT Caller ID, you will be able to catch those crank callers for only P750/unit and P75 monthly fee.
SO GET ONE NOW!
Actual device may differ from photo
PLDT Caller ID
Knows All Calls.
You can get the PLDT Caller ID at any PLDT Business Office, Telepono@Ibapa outlets (located at Asian Mansion II, Unit G-5, 107 dela Rosa St., Makati City; Cash and Carry Supermarket, Filmore St. entrance, Makati City; G/F EHS Bldg., 4429 Calatagan St., Bgy. Palanan, Makati City), ABENSON'S outlets (located at Alabang; Las Pinas; Jaka, Sucat; Ever Ortigas; Robinson's Galleria; Robinson's Ermita; Shangri-la Plaza; Harrison Plaza; Mandaluyong-Sheridan; SM City Carpark; Farmers Cubao; Rustan's Cubao; Quad I, Makati; Cainta, Sta. Lucia I; Unimart, Greenhills; Regalado, Fairview; Cainta 2, Sta. Lucia 4; Grand Central, Kalookan; Metropolis, Muntinlupa; Waltermart, P. Tamo; Waltermart, E. Rodriguez; Pearl Plaza, Tambo Paranaque), all Metro Manila SM Appliance Stores (located at SM North EDSA, QC; SM MegaMall, Mandaluyong; SM Cubao, QC; SM South Mall, Las Pinas; SM Makati, Makati Commercial Center; SM Fairview, Novaliches; SM Manila, near Manila City Hall) or to accredited distributors (Digital Wireless and Centennial Technologies).

Ex-Serb leader charged with genocide

THE HAGUE—Former Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic surrendered voluntarily on Wednesday to the war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague and will answer genocide charges in court on Thursday, the tribunal said.

Plavsic becomes the first woman known to be indicted by the tribunal and the second key figure from the former Bosnian Serb leadership to come to The Hague. Her indictment was one of a number kept secret until it was made public on Wednesday.

Her surrender is a major coup for prosecutors as they close the net on more powerful figures up the Bosnian Serb chain of command.

During the 1992-95 Bosnian war Plavsic was deputy to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

She took over from him when he was forced from office in 1996, but broke with him a year later and campaigned to oust his hardline allies, with the support of the West.

Karadzic and his Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic are the tribunal's top Bosnian Serb indictees and on Wednesday, chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte urged them to follow Plavsic's example.

Plavsic, a 70-year-old former biology professor, learned she was wanted and began negotiations with prosecutors a month ago.

She flew from the Bosnian Serb capital Banja Luka on Tuesday and arrived with her lawyer at the tribunal on Wednesday in a darkened car given a police escort.

The silver-haired Plavsic met Del Ponte for brief formalities before being transferred to the tribunal's detention center at nearby Scheveningen. Her lawyer Krstan Simic said his client was "taking it well."

Plavsic faces nine war crimes counts, including genocide, for alleged crimes in 1991 and 1992. The period covers the lead up to and the start of the Bosnian war when Muslims and Croats were cleansed from Serb areas.

The indictment, approved in April, lists a huge catalogue of events in which non-Serbs were executed, tortured and held in inhumane conditions as the brutal purge gathered pace.

It said she knew of the acts, but did not act. "Instead (she) condoned and publicly congratulated the forces that had taken part."

Prosecutors plan to try her alongside wartime Bosnian Serb parliament speaker Momcilo Krajisnik, arrested in February.

Del Ponte stressed that her office had not agreed any deal as part of Plavsic's surrender. Prosecutors say plea-bargaining, such as offering immunity from prosecution in exchange for testimony, is not an option open to them.

"(There was) no negotiation at all. The only contact was because she wanted to voluntarily surrender," Del Ponte said.

Simic agreed, saying: "Ms Plavsic was faced with the indictment, but the decision to surrender was her own . . . She is aware that this is the only place she can legally prove her innocence or her guilt and that's something she deeply believes in." *Reuters*

PLAVSIC

Princess Margaret in hospital

LONDON—Queen Elizabeth's younger sister Princess Margaret was in hospital on Thursday, painfully thin from a severe loss of appetite caused by a possible recent stroke.

British media reported the 70-year-old princess had not eaten in over two weeks.

As a consequence of an apparent stroke, the princess was now suffering from a "severe loss of appetite," a Buckingham Palace statement said, adding that her condition "remains a cause of concern."

While her illness was not regarded at this stage as life threatening, doctors decided on hospital treatment to stabilize her condition.

"On advice of doctors, Princess Margaret has been admitted to the King Edward VII hospital, where her condition can be more closely monitored," the statement said.

Her public engagements have all been canceled.

The princess was driven to the hospital in central London on Wednesday from the queen's Sandringham estate in eastern England, where the royal family spent the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

There had been hope at the end of last week that the princess might be responding to extra treatment and nursing care at Sandringham.

"However this improvement has not been maintained and her condition remains a cause for concern," the palace said.

Doctors who performed recent tests on the princess suspected she might have had a repeat of a 1998 stroke, or was suffering from the follow-on effects of that.

Margaret's health has been a recurring concern to the royal family. Surgeons removed a section of the princess's left lung in 1985 as newspapers speculated that her condition had been brought on by chain-smoking up to 60 cigarettes a day.

In 1999, she was ill for several weeks after scalding her feet while taking a bath.

Heart experts said severe loss of appetite was a common side-effect of a stroke. *Reuters*

Police smash large child porn operation

LONDON—British police said Wednesday they have smashed the world's largest known pedophile ring, an Internet operation known as the Wonderland Club.

It was run by a sophisticated group of pedophiles operating on a global scale and included some of the most degrading images of children ever seen.

Seven members arrested in Britain pleaded guilty on Wednesday to charges of conspiring with others to distribute indecent images of children.

They will be sentenced at Kingston Crown Court in south west London next month and face a maximum three years in prison.

An eighth man arrested in Britain was charged but committed suicide in January 1999.

Members of the club, who described themselves as "the cream of pedophiles," had to send in at least 10,000 indecent images of children to join.

The ring was smashed in the largest international operation to be coordinated by the National Crime Squad in London.

Simultaneous raids took place around the world on Sept. 2, 1998 with over 100 arrests in Britain, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the US.

A horrifying library of 750,000 computer images of more than 1,200 victims and 1,800 computerized videos depicting children suffering sexual abuse were found by investigators.

Police believe they now know the identities of about 180 members of Wonderland, which was set up in November 1996.

Detective Chief Inspector Alex Wood, of the National Crime Squad, said: "We are talking about serious sexual abuse to young children of both sexes—and to say that it is stomach-churning does not quite describe well enough what it is.

"The youngest victim was about three months and other victims aged up to about 18 years. They are quite horrific." *AFP*

Expert: Britons living close to ranges at risk from Uranium

LONDON—Thousands of Britons living close to depleted uranium (DU) firing ranges or factories producing the munitions are at risk from contamination, an expert warned on Thursday.

Meanwhile, media reports said that Britain's defense ministry has been aware for almost four years that soldiers exposed to DU munitions risked developing cancer.

Professor Malcolm Hooper, from Sunderland University, north-east England, said there was a "very real" danger to people living near centers manufacturing DU projectiles.

"Often these are covert and are not known to the local population," he said in a news interview with the private ITV channel.

Hooper, who has given evidence on depleted uranium to the British parliament's Defense Select Committee, said: "It will be people living near firing ranges (who are at risk) although these are usually located in more remote areas."

His comments come after the government on Tuesday announced a voluntary screening program for troops who had served in the Balkans conflict who fear that contact with depleted uranium has put their health at risk.

But the government stressed it did not believe there was any danger.

The offer of tests to soldiers has failed to satisfy veterans' groups, which complained the government had not gone far enough in addressing their concerns.

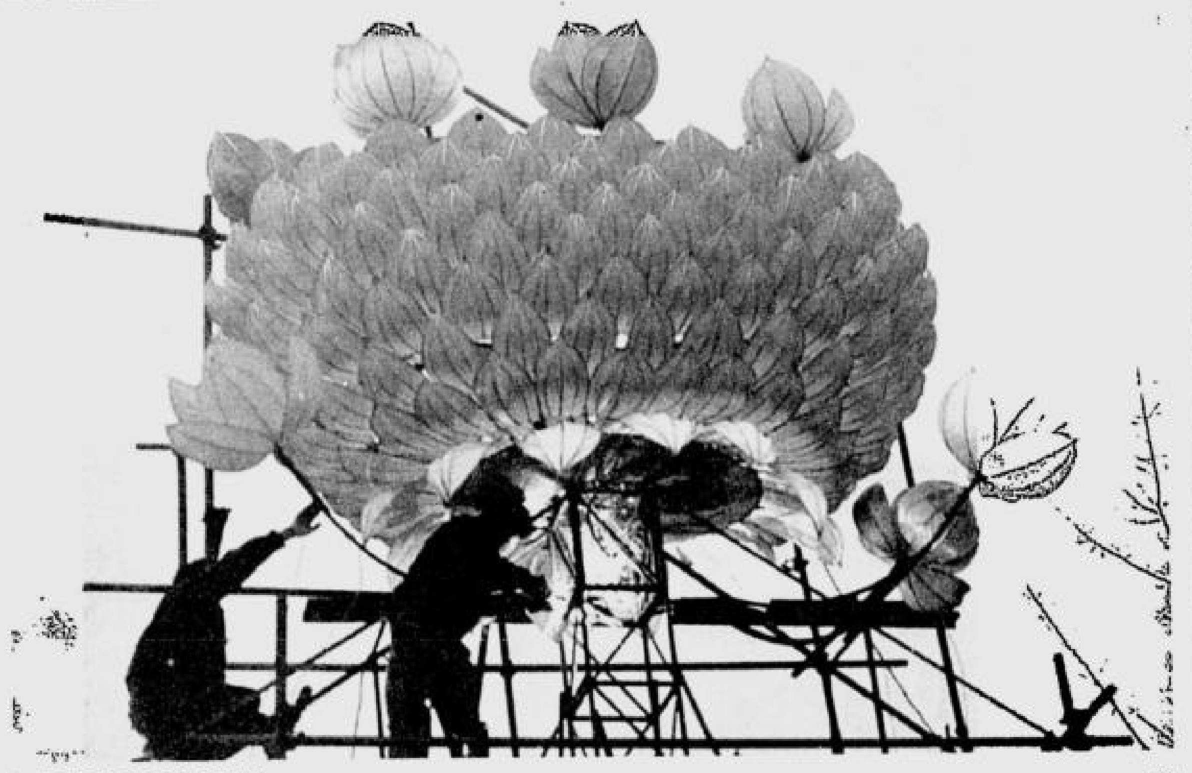
Newspapers and broadcasters reported Thursday that Britain's defense ministry had been aware of potential risks from depleted uranium since at least April 1997.

The BBC said that a report from the headquarters of the Army's Quartermaster General had warned that soldiers dealing with vehicles which had been hit by DU-tipped projectiles would be exposed to up to eight times the acceptable level of exposure to uranium, unless they were provided with respiratory equipment.

But the defense ministry dismissed the report as a "discredited" draft paper, saying it had been prepared by a trainee and had not been endorsed by more senior staff.

Iain Duncan Smith, defense spokesperson for the opposition Conservative party, said: "If they are claiming that the evidence in this document was flawed, they should now release the new evidence that disproved it."

Battlefield munitions are often tipped with depleted uranium, an extremely dense substance which allows them to penetrate tank armor. *AFP*



LOTUS LANTERN AP

For the upcoming Qinhuai Lantern Festival in southern China's Jiangzu province, workers assemble a giant lotus lantern, Jan 10. The lantern weighs 441 pounds and is about 15 feet wide. It took dozens of persons to work on the lantern for more than two weeks.

Pinochet ends court-ordered medical exams

SANTIAGO—Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet returned home Wednesday after completing day one of court-ordered physical and mental examinations at the Military Hospital to determine if he is fit to stand trial, witnesses said.

The four days of medical tests, ordered by Judge Juan Guzman Tapia, who is investigating 204 lawsuits against the 85-year-old retired general, are due to conclude Saturday.

Pinochet is also slated to attend next Monday an interrogation by Guzman on murder and kidnapping charges related to the disappearance of 75 political prisoners in October 1973, when a military unit dubbed the "Caravan of Death" sowed terror across Chile following the military coup that brought Pinochet to power.

On Wednesday the Supreme Court also denied a request by Pinochet lawyers to remove Guzman from the case, according to an attorney for the prosecution, Hugo Gutierrez.

Defense attorney Ambrosio Rodriguez, meanwhile, said he expected Guzman to rule by Monday on whether Pinochet—who suffers from several degenerative disorders, a number of them relating to old-age, as well as cardiovascular problems and diabetes—will have to stand trial.

"We have accepted the medical exams on the understanding that they will be carried out exclusively at the Military Hospital, and that, once the report is complete the judge will determine, on the merits of the report, whether or not (Pinochet) is in a fit state to respond to the interrogation," Gutierrez said.

A panel of eight physicians—two acting as observers—are conducting the health exams.

On Tuesday, another defense attorney, Pablo Rodriguez, indicated that Pinochet may refuse to answer Guzman's questions during the interrogation.

Should Pinochet refuse to answer, Chile's penal code gives Guzman the authority to hold him in contempt of court and order his arrest. *AFP*

2 Canadians defraud 2,000 US residents

LOS ANGELES—Two Canadians accused of running a lottery scam that defrauded more than 2,000 elderly Americans out of some $2.4 million were indicted by a federal grand jury.

Wilson Okike, 28, and Basil Mark Steeves, 32, were charged Wednesday with 12 counts of wire fraud and six counts of mailing fraudulent materials related to lotteries, officials said.

Okike and Steeves allegedly ran Vancouver-based telemarketing companies North Klassen Services, Globallot Services, Royal Flush and Intersweeps Management Services.

Prosecutors say telemarketers from those companies called elderly US residents and told them they had won cash in a lottery.

But the alleged victims were told they first had to send money for taxes, administrative costs or attorneys fees to claim the prizes.

The telemarketers often called their victims a second time, to tell them they had won an additional prize and would have send more money.

The residents of Surrey, British Columbia, are also accused of committing their fraud by telemarketing and targeting elderly victims, two allegations that could make each wire fraud count punishable by 15 years in prison, said Assistant US Attorney Ellyn Lindsay.

The men were arrested on Dec. 6 in Blaine, Washington, as they were performing banking transactions, and later brought to Los Angeles. *AFP*

Bush braces for confirmation battle over Ashcroft Cabinet nomination

WASHINGTON—President-elect George W. Bush's transition team on Wednesday braced for a confirmation battle over attorney general nominee John Ashcroft, only a day after Linda Chavez withdrew as his choice for labor secretary.

"The John Ashcroft process is marked by this escalating ideological division in this town, and I don't think that's healthy for the process," said Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

Bush spent the first day of a two-day visit in Washington receiving a top-secret Pentagon briefing, meeting with budget advisers and holding private meetings as he works to fill administration jobs. Bush takes office on Jan. 20.

Bush also must find a replacement for Chavez, who withdrew after a disclosure that an illegal immigrant worked for her.

The confirmation hearing for Ashcroft, a senator from Missouri who was defeated in a re-election bid last year, is to begin in the Senate on Tuesday.

A coalition of mostly liberal special interest groups will launch a drive to defeat Ashcroft's confirmation. They oppose him over his opposition to abortion rights and gun control and what they regard as inadequate support for civil rights.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, became the first senator to publicly oppose Ashcroft's nomination, urging Bush in a letter to withdraw the nomination of a man whose views she described as "far outside the mainstream of our nation."

Boxer told Bush she would vote against Ashcroft because of his vehement opposition to the nomination to the federal bench of a black judge, Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White.

"I hate to use a charged term but it's my heart talking here. I really think it was a political lynching that happened there in the United States Senate," Boxer told CBS News.

Fleischer vowed that Bush would stand behind the Ashcroft nomination, and said there were no similarities between the dispute over Ashcroft and Chavez's scuttled nomination. *Reuters*

ROADBLOCK REUTERS

A Tibetan demonstrator blocks traffic on a New Delhi road along the route used by visiting Chinese parliament Li Peng, Jan. 11. The Tibetans accuse the Chinese government of the dilution of their identity, religion, culture and environment since the invasion of Tibet by China in 1949, allegations which Beijing denies. Li is on nine-day trip to India.

Pentagon report says Bin Laden acquiring more nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON—A reported interest by guerrilla leader Osama bin Laden's network in acquiring materials for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons is a "key concern" for future threats to US interests, a Pentagon report said on Wednesday.

Bin Laden, a Saudi exile who lives in Afghanistan, is suspected by US officials of being behind the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen Oct. 12 which killed 17 US sailors.

He is on the FBI's most wanted list and is accused of masterminding the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa that killed more than 200 people.

The relative ease of producing some chemical or biological agents has increased concern that use of those types of weapons may become more attractive to "terrorist" groups, the report said.

"For example, the reported interest of Usama bin Laden's network in (nuclear, biological, chemical) materials is a key concern in terms of possible future threats to US interests," the report said.

The report, "Proliferation: Threat And Response," said that in recent years "a new proliferation dynamic has developed" because components, technologies, expertise and information is more readily available.

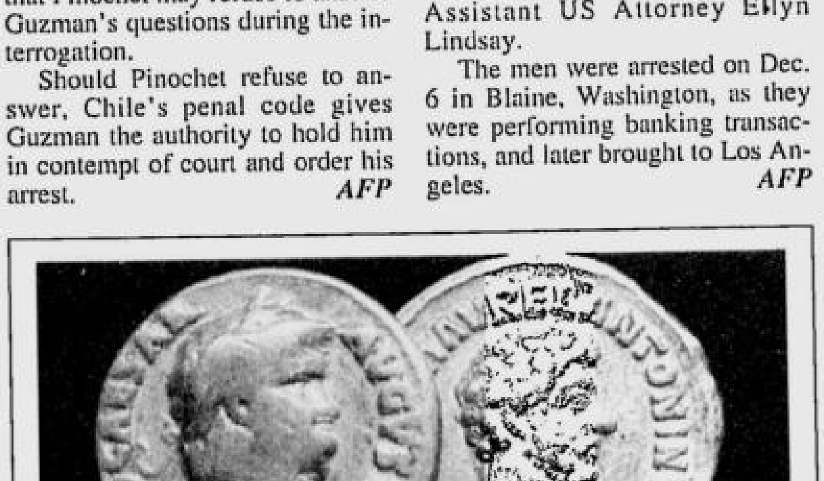
Russia and China are the main suppliers of nuclear, biological, chemical and missile-related equipment and technologies, the report said.

Russian entities have exported ballistic missile and nuclear technology to Iran, China is a source of missile-related technology, and North Korea is a "key source" for ballistic missiles and related component materials, the report said.

"Foreign assistance, particularly from Russia, China and North Korea, continues to have demonstrable effects on missile advances around the world," it said.

In Northeast Asia, North Korea and China are the countries of "greatest concern," the report said.

North Korea while having economic difficulties has chosen to attach a high priority to maintaining nuclear, biological, chemical weapons and missile programs, the report said. *Reuters*



PRIZED DISCOVERY REUTERS

Two gold coins showing Emperor Nero (left) and Emperor Marcus Aurelius form part of the Roman coin hoard discovered by an archaeologist in London, Jan. 10. The 43 gold 'aureli' are valued at approximately $100,430 and are estimated to have been worth four years' salary for a Roman legionary soldier. The treasure had been hidden away in a floor safe, undiscovered for nearly 1,800 years.

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

'Jueteng' forces audit of banks

BAGUIO CITY—Jueteng funds allegedly laundered through banks in Northern Luzon have become the targets of an internal audit following a series of money-laundering exposés at the impeachment trial of President Estrada, banking industry sources said.

A top Cordillera bank official disclosed on Wednesday that "cleansing" programs had been undertaken by the affected banks in most parts of Luzon "not to whitewash, but to document these accounts properly, so we do not become party to the laundering."

It was a response to testimony made by prosecution witnesses who described controversial deposits made at the Equitable PCI Bank as Mr. Estrada's secret accounts that were opened using a fictitious name.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed that the accounts held money collected from jueteng payoffs allegedly received by Mr. Estrada.

At least three major bank branches in Baguio, one of which closed in 1999, supposedly held voluminous accounts generated by illegal gambling organizations "who may have been beholden to Singson, at least until 1999," a former bank accountant told the INQUIRER.

"These are not mere rumors but industry circle information that proved that many provincial banks tolerated tainted money deposits."

The bank official said similar accounts could be traced to banks in Northern Luzon where jueteng flourished.

One bank, which went bankrupt, kept provincial records of accounts that were believed owned by jueteng operators.

These confidential accounts are part of the documents now being reviewed by the Philippine Deposits and Insurance Corp. (PDIC) and which could be obtained through court-initiated subpoena, the accountant said.

He said a few of these alleged jueteng savings accounts had also led to accounts owned by local government officials.

"The reality in Philippine banking is that many local branches are never queasy about the kind of money they get clients to deposit in their banks, because these branches need to meet deposit targets. This is especially urgent for provincial branches that need to be relevant to their mother bank offices to survive," he said.

"In cases like this, a huge deposit helps save a branch, so the officials often look away. I personally discovered one account here in Baguio as part of a jueteng haul, because the client had become friendly and boasted about his money's sources. I discovered that he distributed the money to other banks."

Technically, he said, the banking system does not consider jueteng money illegal at face value because no banking guidelines demand scrutiny of savings accounts.

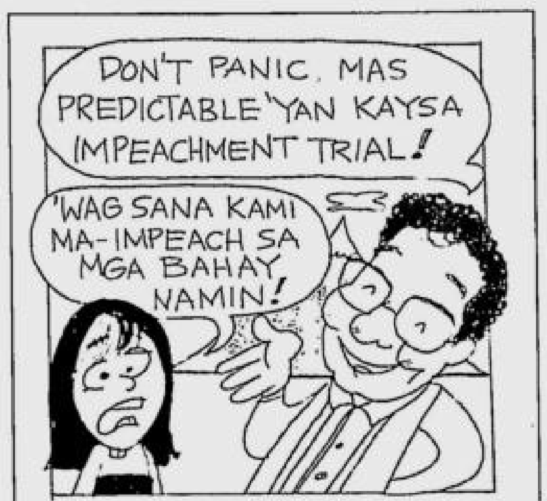
Numbered accounts or aliases are tolerated by bank branches "although it is routine that on their very signature jackets, these clients provide their real names," the accountant said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

micrometeoroids or small meteors crash into our atmosphere. However, they are so small it is almost impossible to detect them. Occasionally, a comet may pass close to earth leaving debris in its wake. These minute dirt slam at breakneck speeds into the earth's dense atmosphere where they burn glow and give rise to "shooting stars." TRIVIA: You may not be aware of it but every day, several

BOSE®
Better sound through research.
www.bose.com

BOSE STORES:
SM Megamall: Tel. No. 634-8484 to 85 • **SM City North Edsa:** Tel. No. 926-80-34 • **Robinson's Place Ermita:** Tel. No. 536-2668
Festival Supermall: Tel. No. 850-3638 • **Enzo Bldg.:** (Jaguar Showroom) Tel. No. 897-8888 • **SM City Manila:** Tel. No. 525-1995•
Glorietta 4 (Automatic Center): Tel. No. 729-64-50

DEALERS:
Ambassador Appliances: Virramall, Greenhills Tel. 721-0905 • **Ang Brothers Appliances:** G-Puyat Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. 733-7715 • **CD Plus: (Iloilo City)** 2nd Floor, SM City Iloilo Tel. (033) 337-0514 • **Cebu Circuit City:** Unit 122-Ground Floor,
Gaisano Country Mall Banilad, Cebu City Tel. (032) 231-3598 to 99 • **Nagatome Auto Sales: (Naga City)** Grd. Floor, Mc-Kay Building,
Panganiban Avenue, Tel. (054) 811-1515 • **Sound Signal: (Bacolod City)** 22nd Lacson Street, Dona Ceferina Building, Tel. (034) 434-1664


DON'T PANIC, MAS PREDICTABLE 'YAN KAYSA IMPEACHMENT TRIAL!
'WAG SANA KAMI MA-IMPEACH SA MGA BAHAY NAMIN!

Mayon easier to predict than trial, says Orly

LEGAZPI CITY—It could be easier to predict a volcano's eruption than the outcome of the ongoing trial of President Estrada, if Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado would be believed.

"Let's enjoy the activity of Mayon. I think this is more predictable than the impeachment proceedings. But we do not expect Mayon to rival the Senate hearing," said Mercado, who is also chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, during a visit here Wednesday.

Mercado was here to check reports that Mayon was acting up again.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) office here said there was a "possible resurgent eruption" by Mayon.

The Phivolcs said Mayon may emit lava any time and raised the alert level around the volcano to 2 on Tuesday.

A level 2 alert means increased and sustained volcanic unrest, according to Phivolcs head Raymundo Punongbayan.

"Many people should watch this and we should not worry because the eruption would come in installment," said Mercado.

"Mayon is part and parcel of our lives and topography so we should always be ready for any eventuality. So let us look at the positive side of it but let us also be ready to do our job of being ready always," he said.

On Tuesday, Punongbayan wrote Mercado a letter, reporting the recent activity of Mayon based on pictures taken Monday that showed what appeared to be a lava dome.

The Phivolcs official said the dome was similar to the lava accumulation that appeared before the February 2000 eruption.

He said lava domes re-form when lava, too thick to flow, accumulate inside the crater.

"Such lava piles may be considered a precursor to pyroclastic flow-producing or lava flow-producing eruptions as fresh magma from beneath the summit pushes overlaying volcanic material upward," Punongbayan said.

He asked Mercado for a helicopter or an airplane to allow his men to document the summit.

"In the 1984 and 2000 eruptions, we noted that (the) appearance of lava domes preceded the eruption in a matter of weeks," Punongbayan said.

Resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said they were conducting an aerial survey to see the possible extent of an eruption.

"We will see if this is juvenile or residual in nature so we have to immediately evaluate this," Laguerta said.

He said based on past eruptions of Mayon, the dome usually bulges until it explodes.

"If it (dome) will continue to bulge, it could collapse and there could be a secondary explosion," he added.

"If you're living near the channels, you're in danger," Laguerta warned residents.

He added that the February 2000 eruption released some 40 million tons of pyroclastic materials while the average emission is 100 million tons.

"So if the average ejecta is not yet completed, the volcano has to emit more to complete the cycle," he said.

Laguerta said there was no crater glow yet, "but this does not mean that there is no possible explosion. There are instances when there is no crater glow and the volcano appears to be growing a skin due to stone insulations."

He said Mayon had also been emitting volcanic gases from the summit crater.

More earthquakes were recorded the past week and these "are likely related to (the) ascent of magma," he added.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Villagers release 'pawikans' to sea

BY Y. FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ANDA, Pangasinan—Amid prayers and a simple send-off ceremony, local officials and fishermen from the coastal village of Tondol here released last month two green sea turtles known as *pawikan* into the sea.

"We, your elders, bequeath to you the sea. We ask you to take care of its resources," the fishermen told the village's children.

"We accept your legacy and the responsibility of taking care of our seas," the children answered back.

With the prayers said, the residents of Tondol bade goodbye to the *pawikan* earlier caught by the fishermen and sold to Mayor Alicia Pulido.

Fishermen in the town used to butcher every turtle caught in the Lingayen Gulf, unaware that these were endangered species.

Pawikan meat is a delicacy in the area. The turtle's shell is also sold to interested buyers.

After learning this, Pulido offered to buy the turtles for P300 each to save them and encourage the fishermen not to kill the marine animals.

She put them in a saltwater pond near her beachfront cottage in Tondol prior to their release.

"We did not release the turtles immediately because we wanted to prepare a send-off ceremony so our people would know that these turtles need protection," Pulido said.

The turtles were tagged by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and released more than a kilometer away from the village's shores.

"We hope other fishermen will not catch them," Pulido said.

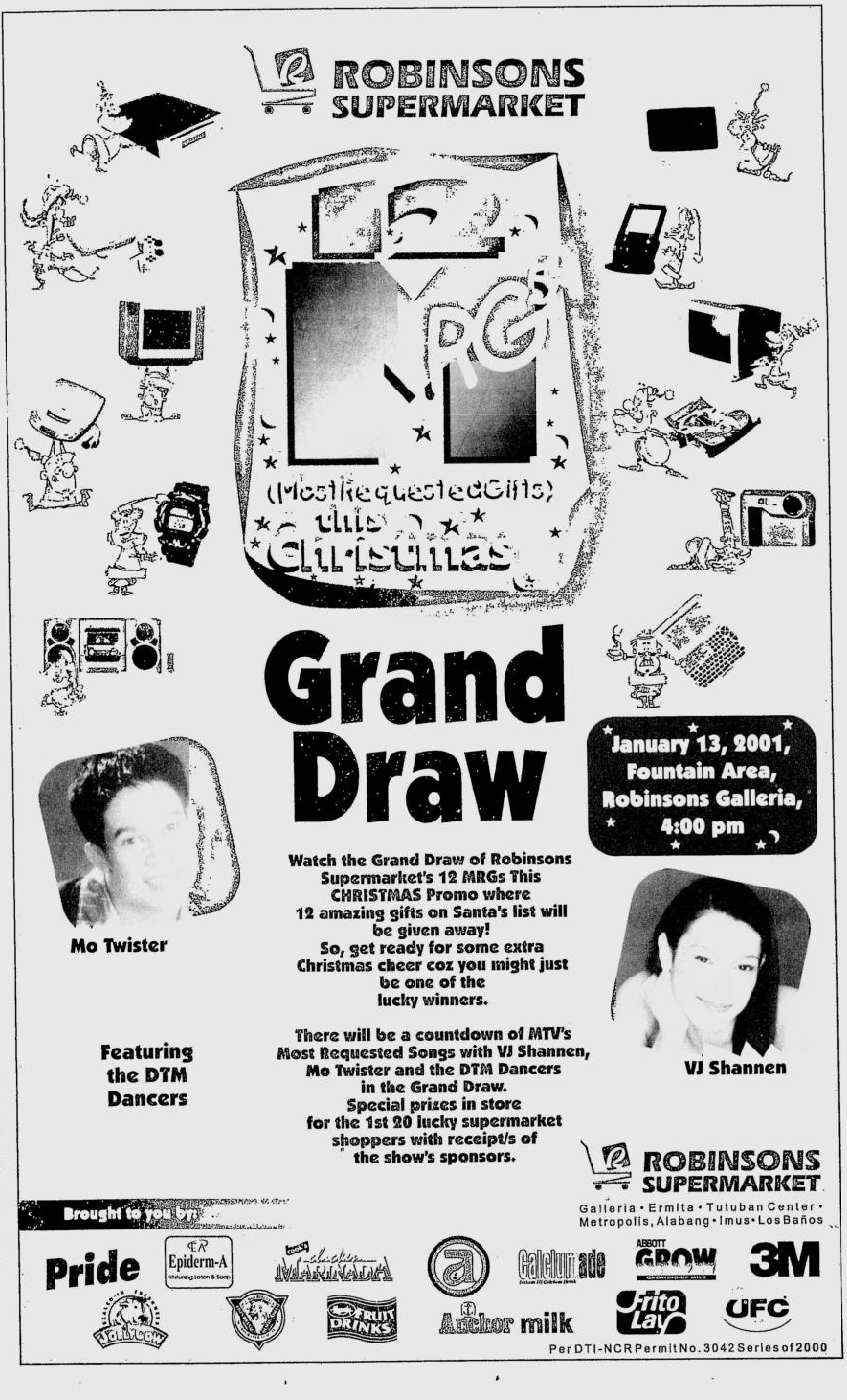
Two smaller turtles kept in the mayor's pond would be released in April during the celebration of the World Earth Day.

The local government has embarked on a massive information dissemination campaign on the preservation of the endangered *pawikan*.

"Since they know that I buy every turtle captured, they just sell them to me instead of butchering them," Pulido said.

She said she has set environmental protection and sustainable development as the main agenda in her government.

Eugene Santos of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro said his office is lookin into reports that Pam kalan Island in the tow is a breeding ground f sea turtles.


ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET

12 MRGs (Most Requested Gifts) this Christmas

Grand Draw

January 13, 2001,
Fountain Area,
Robinsons Galleria,
4:00 pm

Mo Twister

Watch the Grand Draw of Robinsons Supermarket's 12 MRGs This CHRISTMAS Promo where 12 amazing gifts on Santa's list will be given away!
So, get ready for some extra Christmas cheer coz you might just be one of the lucky winners.

There will be a countdown of MTV's Most Requested Songs with VJ Shannen, Mo Twister and the DTM Dancers in the Grand Draw.
Special prizes in store for the 1st 20 lucky supermarket shoppers with receipt/s of the show's sponsors.

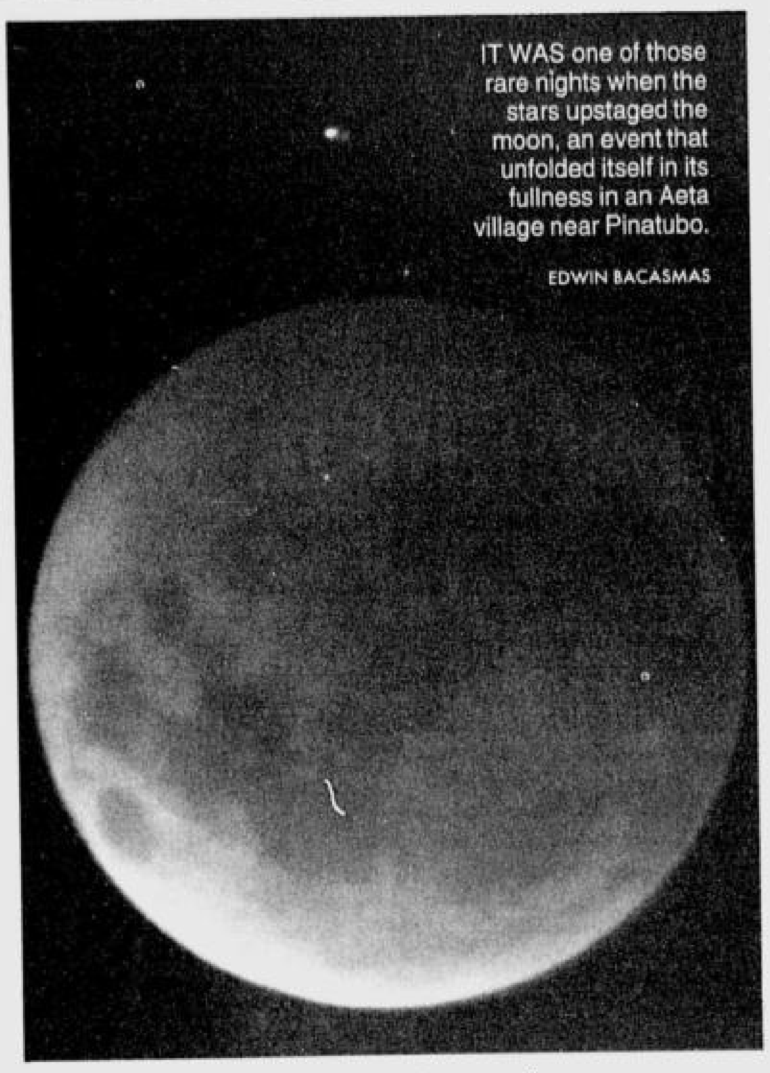
Featuring the DTM Dancers

VJ Shannen

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET
Galleria • Ermita • Tutuban Center •
Metropolis, Alabang • Imus • Los Baños

Brought to you by:
Pride • Epiderm-A Whitening Lotion & Soap • Marinada • Calciumade • Abbott Grow • 3M • Jolly Cow • Fruit Drinks • Anchor milk • Frito Lay • UFC

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3042 Series of 2000



IT WAS one of those rare nights when the stars upstaged the moon, an event that unfolded itself in its fullness in an Aeta village near Pinatubo.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Eclipse in Aeta village: 'Stars upstaged the moon'

By TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—When the moon was closer to the earth and the earth shadowed the moon on Jan. 10, the Aeta village of Sta. Juliana near Mt. Pinatubo proved to be a perfect observatory station for the first of three lunar eclipses visible in the country this year.

This lunar eclipse was rare and observing it from an Aeta evacuation camp in Sta. Juliana gave a spectacular, unobstructed view of the full moon, according to astronomist Bernie Esporlas of the National Museum's Planetarium.

The watch was originally planned at Mt. Pulag in the borders of Benguet and Ifugao but weather officials, noting cloudy skies over the area, discouraged the holding of the activity there, Esporlas said.

The crater-lake of Mt. Pinatubo was a suitable site but moon watching was best if it was done in a community, Esporlas said.

But unlike in many parts of the country that had cloudy skies after midnight of Jan. 9, the moon was completely visible over Sta. Juliana, 10 kilometers from the volcano and the nearest village that survived Mt. Pinatubo's eruption.

Smog that was common in many Metro Manila areas did not block the view here, Esporlas said.

He said he did not just come to observe but also to engage a group of Aetas and *unat* (lowlanders), including one boy so interested in astronomy, to see the "real planetarium" from atop the hill northeast of the volcano.

To see is to learn, said Floro Castañeda Jr., 13, who said he has never been to the planetarium near the Rizal Park in Manila.

This was the first astronomical show in Mt. Pinatubo areas, Esporlas said.

Soldiers from the Philippine Air Force's 601st Special Operations Wing lent their binoculars but tribal chief Nelson Pangilinan preferred seeing the lunar eclipse from a wash basin filled with mountain water.

The adults gathered around Castañeda, keeping an eye on the moon while speculating the meaning of the lunar eclipse to their lives.

"Will it mean good harvest or not? Does it signal bad luck?" asked Adela, Castañeda's mother.

But Esporlas said the moon gives no definite answers to these affairs.

Hours before the eclipse, the moon appeared near the constellation of the twin stars Gemini. Next to it was the Big Dipper. At the moon's left, the stars of Orion shone bright.

The planets Jupiter and Saturn appeared like stars at this time of the year. Venus shone like a star at the tip of one of the mountains in the range, north of the volcano. Polaris, the star that guides fishermen, glowed in the northern skies.

Because the moon was on a perigee position or was closer to the earth, its apparent size was bigger than usual, Esporlas said.

This was a rare occurrence, he said.

The eclipse began at 1:41 a.m. when the lighter shade of the earth, called *penumbra*, coated the moon, giving it first a silver white hue.

The hue cast light on the O' Donnel River, creating a silvery tint on the usually striking gray lahar-laden landscape.

As the earth slowly cast its shadow, the moon acquired a copper red color.

By 3:49 a.m., *umbra* or the darker shade of the earth, completely blanketed the moon, making it starkly black and obscure.

The stars, twinkling so bright, upstaged the moon.

By 4:46 a.m., the moon escaped its stage of semi-darkness, completely freeing itself from the shadow.

By dawn, when the whole village had awakened to a new day, the moon was still cast in the west, illuminating the path that led to the *gasak* (farms) of the Aetas.

In the east, the sun, its red rays proclaiming its coming, broke out from the clouds that hovered on Mt. Arayat.

The almost simultaneous appearance of the sun and moon illuminated even more the path that led to the Aetas' *gasak*.

Two other lunar eclipses are expected to occur on July 5 and on Dec. 30 this year, Esporlas said.

SEAMAN'S WOES

Japs give up Pinoy for dead

By JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Cebuano seaman has been missing since Jan. 7 when a Panamanian-registered cargo vessel sank in waters off Japan.

Odelio Bas, 26, of Pook, Talisay City, was the only one who could not be accounted for among the 14 crewmembers of the ill-fated MV White Koowa, owned by Hukuyo Lines, a Japanese company.

The vessel sank in waters off Kochi, Japan, 37 kilometers southeast of Cape Muroto, on Jan. 7 at around 9:30 p.m.

Coast Guard authorities in Japan rescued five Filipino crewmen and recovered the bodies of eight fatalities.

Of the 14 crewmembers, 12 were Filipinos and two, Japanese. Ship Capt. Shigeru Nishikido died in the sinking.

Odelio, the eldest of five children, is the family breadwinner who dreamed of finishing their house.

His family has asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to request the Japanese government not to call off the search for the missing crewman.

The victim's father, Diosdado, wrote to the DFA on Wednesday after they were informed by Odelio's recruitment agency, the Leonis Navigation, that the Japanese government had already called off the search.

"Our family would like to appeal to your office . . . to help us request the Japanese Embassy and the agencies concerned to continue the search and rescue operations so as to recover the body of our son, Odelio, had the worst . . . happened to him," Diosdado said in his letter.

"In this situation, Odelio, being our eldest son and a very supportive child, we, the members of the (Bas) family, had been longing to see . . . him once more," he added.

Leon Rodion Rojas, DFA officer in charge in Central Visayas, transmitted the letter to the DFA central office Wednesday afternoon.

He also wrote a letter to Foreign Affairs Secretary Domingo Siazon to help the Bas family.

"This urgent request was made after the elder Bas was informed today . . . that rescue operations had been stopped by Japanese authorities," Rojas said in his letter.

"Since most of the rescued crew(men) believe that seaman Bas could have been swept back inside the sunken vessel, his father sought the intercession of the Talisay mayor in his desire to recover the body of his son in whatever condition (it is)," he added.

Rosalisa, Odelio's younger sister, said the last time he talked to her brother was in December when he hinted that he would get married when he returned in February.

Diosdado said the family continues to hope that Odelio is still alive. "He is the best among my children," he cried.

10 'killer' buses' operations suspended

COTABATO CITY—Sixteen days after the tragic Christmas day bus crash in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board Wednesday suspended for 30 days the operation of 10 units of the Weena Bus Lines that ply the Davao-Cotabato route.

The suspension came as the board was expected to mete out yet another penalty on Weena following another accident in Davao City on Sunday, where a female passenger was killed and five others were injured.

At least 32 passengers were killed in the Christmas day tragedy.

Weena has a fleet of 180 units operating in the Davao City-Davao del Sur-North Cotabato-Maguindanao and Cotabato City routes.

LTFRB Chair Dante Lantin said the board also admonished Weena for its failure to comply with the LTFRB's May 21, 1999 order requiring the firm to secure a Passenger Accident Insurance of not less than P50,000 per passenger per bus.

Lantin said the board also laid the blame for the Christmas day crash on two drivers of the Weena Bus Lines.

Witnesses had said a Davao-bound Weena bus sideswiped the rear of another Weena bus bound for Cotabato, pushing the Cotabato-bound bus into a ravine.

Residents near the crash site in Barangay Kinuskusan, Bansalan town, told the INQUIRER they retrieved "38 dead on the spot" but police and the Weena management said only 32 were killed.

The management of the bus firm said the accident was caused by a tire that allegedly exploded while the bus was negotiating a sharp curve.

Asked why the penalty was mere suspension and not the cancellation of the franchise when the firm was found to have operated without passengers' insurance coverage, Lantin told radio station dxMS in a telephone interview: "Suspension is grave enough."

The board disputed claims by Weena management that only one bus was involved in the incident and that a busted tire was the main cause of the accident.

"While it is true that there was a tire blow out, the fact that another bus was involved should not have been withheld, especially when it is the direct subject of a direct inquiry by the board," the board said.

The management assured the LTFRB that the tires their buses use now are safe.

The board gave Weena management 30 days to show proof that the tires are not defective and that the victims of the Christmas day tragedy were properly attended to.

Guinaid Adam, Weena-Cotabato manager, said the suspension has a "moderate impact" on operations as other Weena buses continue to ply their routes. ***Edwin Fernandez, Jowel Canuday and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Estrada 'foe' appointed to trade body

CEBU CITY—President Estrada has appointed a Cebuano businessman, who earlier called for his resignation, as one of the governors of the Board of Investments (BOI).

Gerry Sta. Ana is one of five new BOI governors, which include Tony Leviste, the father-in-law of Sen. Loren Legarda.

Ellen Gatbunton, Malacañang records staffer, told the INQUIRER Tuesday that President Estrada signed Sta Ana's appointment on Jan. 2.

She said their computer records showed that Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas sent the appointment documents to Sta. Ana on Jan. 5 through the Department of Trade and Industry.

It was not known yet if Sta. Ana accepted the appointment.

Elberto Emphasis, president of the Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), said Tuesday that Sta. Ana submitted his bio-data to Malacañang.

He, however, said Sta. Ana had told him on Monday that he has not decided whether or not to accept the appointment.

"Sta. Ana was telling me he was still consulting with his friends. In fact, he also asked me (if he should accept the position) and I told him he is in the best position to evaluate that," Emphasis said.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Sta. Ana who is reportedly in Manila but he could not be reached even through his cellular phone.

The report on his appointment, however, elicited mixed reactions from the city's business community.

Sabino Dapat, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president, said Sta. Ana's appointment may be an attempt by the Estrada administration to reach out to the business community, which has been vocal in its opposition against him.

Sta. Ana was one of the signatories of a resolution passed by the Visayan chambers in October, seeking Estrada's resignation.

Although he advocated Estrada's resignation, Sta. Ana is not active in Barug Sugbo, an anti-Estrada movement in Cebu, and has not attended any of the group's rallies in Cebu. ***Lino Gilbert Parone Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Cops' drinking spree turns fatal

TAYUG, Pangasinan—Two policemen were killed while another was seriously hurt Monday when they shot each other after a drinking spree at the Sta. Maria town police station. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Pangasinan police director, identified the fatalities as SPO2 Narciso Navarro of the Sta. Maria police and SPO1 Rogelio Julian of the San Quintin police. A third policeman, PO3 Alex Juanitez, was taken to a hospital in Dagupan City due to bullet wounds. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Talisay is Cebu's new city

CEBU CITY—Cebu province has a new city. The town of Talisay became Cebu's fifth component city after a plebiscite on Dec. 30. The plebiscite was held after President Estrada signed into law Republic Act 8979 or the Talisay City Charter. But the turnout of the plebiscite was low. Of the 64,809 registered voters in Talisay, only 11,379 voters cast their votes. Of the number, 8,719 voted "yes," and 2,660, "no." Marshal Rubia, Commission on Elections assistant regional director, said the low turnout does not matter as long as a majority of the residents voted yes for cityhood. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Bomb scare suspends classes

BACOLOD CITY—A bomb scare at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod yesterday forced the suspension of classes as bomb experts searched the campus for explosive devices. Demy Montoya, head of the Bacolod Police Bomb Explosives Unit, led a two-hour search of the premises but did not find any bomb. Worried and panicky parents rushed to the university to pick up their children, causing a traffic jam along La Salle Avenue at about 10 a.m. Fernando Belleza of the USLS president's office said a man, who spoke in English, called the Audio Visual Resource Center at 9 a.m. and said a bomb would go off in 45 minutes at the Cody Hall near the Audio Visual Resource Center. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

PNOC union, management sign CBA

ORMOC CITY—The New Year started well for both management and union of the Philippine National Oil Corp. in Barangay Tongonan, Kananga, the town next to this city. The Leyte-A Geothermal Project Employees Union (Lagpeu) and the PNOC-Energy Development Corp. signed a new Collective Bargaining Agreement, ushering hope that peace would finally reign in the PNOC Complex. The signing came three months after a violent dispersal of a two-day picket staged by the union in October following a deadlock in CBA negotiations. The two parties returned to the negotiating table and signed a new CBA on Dec. 29 in Cebu City. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Aklan reporters fear for life

KALIBO, Aklan—Broadcasters in Aklan raised concern over their safety after a reporter of radio station dyKR received death threats days after the killing of Roland Ureta, the station's program director. Ed Panganiban of radio station dyRG asked Gov. Florencio Miraflores to help journalists acquire licenses for firearms for use in self-defense. If Ureta were armed on Jan. 3, he would have been able to fight his assailants, Panganiban said. He said Ureta managed to run after the suspects shot him in Barangay Bagto, Lezo town. Augusto Tolentino, dyKR station manager, told Miraflores that their police reporter, Jerome Vega, received a call from an unidentified man, advising him to be vigilant because he was next to be killed. *Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Erap vows to build 300 bridges

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Reiterating his decision not to resign from his post, President Estrada promised to build more bridges until his term ends in 2004.

Mr. Estrada arrived here Wednesday to inaugurate a P16-million steel bridge in the boundaries of Barangay Balaong and Masalipit.

It is the first of 300 bridges that Mr. Estrada promised to build as part of his bridges program.

Mr. Estrada called the Balaong-Masalipit bridge "Tulay ng Pagmamahal," saying it symbolized his service to the poor.

Speaking before some 300 residents, Mr. Estrada also assailed his detractors, especially the rich who joined protest rallies calling for his resignation.

"These rich people and elitists continue to attack me because they also own big newspapers. For those who want to wrest the presidency from me, just wait because I will step down only in 2004," he said in Filipino amid cheers from his audience.

Mr. Estrada said he was confident that truth would come out after the impeachment trial and that he would be cleared of the charges against him.

He said he plans to build houses for teachers, policemen, soldiers and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) whom he described as the country's "modern day heroes."

He also awarded 479 Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) to 535 farmers in Central Luzon.

Mr. Estrada urged Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz to propose the development of the Tartaro Hot Spring in the province which he said would be a "perfect tourist destination."

Mr. Estrada also ordered Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta to look into the potentials of the hot spring. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Lack of funds plagues flagship projects–Aventajado

DAVAO CITY—Flagship Projects Secretary Robert Aventajado said the government does not have enough funds for its flagship projects including those funded through the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

The government is required to put up counterpart funds by as much as 50 percent of the total cost of projects funded by foreign governments through the ODA.

Aventajado said the government can only afford to support about 60 percent of the existing ODA projects due to budgetary problems.

"Our (government) absorptive capacity of ODA projects is down to, I think, 64 percent. The other year, I think, it was about 67 (percent)," Aventajado told reporters here Tuesday.

The Estrada administration had identified about 140 projects nationwide but these are facing delays due to problems related to funding and other legal issues like right of way.

He said 20 of the biggest projects are in Mindanao, including the controversial Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation in Carmen, North Cotabato. The project was conceptualized during the Aquino administration, implemented during the Ramos administration but suffered delays after fighting between the military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front erupted in the area.

President Estrada continued implementing the project and listed it as a priority.

The government considers all ODA-funded projects as flagship projects that were given priority status in terms of implementation.

President Estrada had instructed the Flagship Projects Committee to raise its absorptive capacity for ODA-funded projects by raising money.

Aventajado said the President had emphasized the need to pursue his flagship projects in to pump prime the sagging economy.

"If you have more projects going on, it means more economic activities, more employment, more benefits for our people in addition to the benefit the project itself will bring about," he said.

Aventajado said the Flagship Projects Committee is tapping the proceeds of the sale of government assets as one of its sources of funds to finance the flagship projects.

He said among government assets that have been posted for privatization are the Philippine National Railways, Philippine Postal Corp. and the Philippine Phosphate Corp. ***Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Laarni flees to Hong Kong to escape Senate summons

(From page A1)

Wednesday, the household help told the servers of the summons to come back on Thursday. But when they returned, they found Enriquez had "already left for Hong Kong."

Barbo said the Senate would tell the foreign affairs department to cancel Enriquez's passport if she did not return to testify by Wednesday.

Enriquez and a female companion, Bebu Manalo Bulchang, checked in at the Philippine Airlines counter "by proxy," airline sources said.

The trip was apparently made in haste, since the pair had not made prior bookings. "They were 'go-shows.' They were chance passengers. This is allowed if the flight is not fully booked," the sources said.

"There was deceit" in Enriquez's act, Barbo said, adding that House Prosecutor Joker Arroyo plans to file a motion to declare Enriquez in contempt of court.

'Flight pattern'

"Flight is admission of guilt," Arroyo said in a separate interview, adding that the prosecution panel has observed a "flight pattern" among potential witnesses close to President Estrada.

Enriquez and Bulchang were the 188th and 187th passengers to check in. The flight carried 228 passengers. They were assigned seats 1E and 1D in business class.

The pair cleared the immigration counter at 6:27 a.m. It was possible that the same proxy processed their travel documents at the counter on their behalf, the sources said.

Enriquez's flight came only hours after the House prosecution team asked the impeachment court to issue a hold-departure order against her. The request was filed around 8 p.m. on Jan. 10, and granted last night, after the woman had left.

As of yesterday afternoon, Enriquez's name was not included in the Bureau of Immigration's list of hold-departure orders.

News of her departure also came just hours after a woman who identified herself as a friend of the mistress insisted that Enriquez was still in the country.

The woman, Ofelia Que, said in a radio interview that Enriquez was "hurting, she was crying" because of the decision of the prosecutors to summon her to testify in the trial.

'No purpose'

For his part, Gatchalian's name was dragged into the trial as the owner of Wellex Corp., a company which was the subject of an investment agreement in connection with a P500-million trust account allegedly owned by the President under the name of "Jose Velarde."

In an interview from Hong Kong, Gatchalian, a one-time presidential adviser, said that he had not been in touch with Enriquez for about a year. "There is no purpose in seeing her," he said.

He said he left for Hong Kong with his wife aboard PAL Flight No. 300, which left at 8:05 yesterday morning. He said he had made the trip to meet with foreign investors.

Reports from Naia showed that Enriquez, for her part, was scheduled to leave for Hong Kong onboard PAL Flight No. 302 at 6:40 a.m., but the flight was delayed and left at 8:20 a.m.

"We were not on the same flight," Gatchalian said.

At Wack Wack

According to a report of House prosecution manager Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, the subpoena for Enriquez was issued at around 9:17 p.m. Wednesday.

Two members of the Senate's Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA) went to Wack Wack subdivision to serve it.

But a guard identified as Mr. Caturay stopped them at the subdivision's gate and did not allow them to enter, saying that there were no people in Enriquez's house.

The two, Emmanuel Salvador and Oscar Rugayan, eventually managed to get inside the subdivision around 11 p.m., accompanied by another security guard. But at Enriquez's house, they were told to wait since members of the household were still looking for the chief of the security force.

"A duty sergeant, Jimmy Cruz, refused to accept the subpoena and told the servers to return the following day, in the morning, because Ms Laarni Enriquez was not at home and her secretary (would) be the one to receive the subpoena," said a report signed by retired Brig. Gen. Leonardo Lopez.

The two left the house around 11:49 p.m. after being asked to identify themselves and the purpose of their visit, Belmonte said.

They returned yesterday morning to serve the subpoena on Enriquez, but she had already left for Hong Kong. Ruth Villoso, a nanny, received the document at 8:50 a.m.

"Every time there is a subpoena, they leave, and we expect that this will continue. By the time this impeachment trial is over there will be no more extended family members left in the country," Arroyo said.

Asked if the House prosecution team would ask the impeachment court to sanction Enriquez, Belmonte said the panel had not discussed the matter yet.

"She might return before (Jan. 17)," he said.

He said that Enriquez was supposed to testify on the charge of unexplained wealth, and on President Estrada's statement of assets and liabilities in connection with the anti-graft law.

He pointed out that the prosecution had stumbled upon documents, including a check, linking Enriquez to the charge, but he refused to elaborate.

Prosecutor Oscar Moreno said the subpoena was based on a check for P1.2 million allegedly given to Enriquez by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson. She allegedly deposited the check in an account at the Philippine Savings Bank last December.

Prosecutors told the Senate tribunal on Tuesday that Mr. Estrada, First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, and at least three mistresses—Enriquez, Guia Gomez and Joy Melendrez—held substantial funds in the Greenhills branch of Citibank NA.

Que, Enriquez's friend, denied that Enriquez maintained a Citibank account.

She also insisted that Enriquez does not own the controversial New Manila mansion nicknamed "Boracay," where she and her children once stayed. Que said that they only rented the house while their own home was being renovated.

Que described Enriquez as "very quiet, very low-profile" and "a good person" who was deeply religious.

Belmonte said that the subpoena for Ms Enriquez was one of 13 that the prosecution wanted served. The potential witnesses include Benjamin Hughes, an architect, and former Equitable PCI Bank president George Go.

Hughes, according to a court document, would be asked to explain the circumstances regarding the construction of several houses, including the controversial "Boracay" mansion, several houses in Wack Wack, and a luxury cabin in Tagaytay Highlands.

Both Enriquez and Hughes, prosecutors said in their plea for a hold-departure order, can offer testimonial evidence that President Estrada acquired ill-gotten wealth.

The prosecutors "seriously fear" that the two might slip out of the country, the document said.

Belmonte said the team was still trying to determine how Enriquez's sudden trip abroad would affect the case.

He added the prosecution also plans to summon more bank executives in its bid to uncover more about the "Jose Velarde" accounts. *With reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan, Philip Tubeza; AFP*

₱6-M man busted at Naia

By TJ Burgonio

AIRPORT authorities were yesterday investigating how Juancho Santos Mendiola, 36, managed to bring a bag containing millions of pesos onto Enriquez's flight without the money being detected.

Mendiola, who claimed to be a credit card guarantor, zoology graduate and resident of San Juan, denied that either he or Enriquez owned the cash, saying that he carried the money on the request of a friend and he was going to Hong Kong on vacation.

There were conflicting reports on the incident.

Mendiola checked in at the PAL counter on his own, earlier than Laarni Enriquez. He was the 80th passenger to check in.

According to Adornio Baliwag, a boarding officer who said he arrested Mendiola while the latter was about to enter the tube leading to the plane. Mendiola was the last passenger to board. Mendiola even had to be paged by PAL ground crew, he said.

Baliwag said he checked the black nylon bag carried by Mendiola.

Baliwag told newsmen that when he confronted Mendiola, the latter claimed to be a companion of "the first lady." When Baliwag asked him, "Which first lady?" Mendiola did not answer.

Customs officers led by Dionisio Mantos, the collector on duty, took two hours to count the P6 million. They listed the serial numbers of each P1,000 bill. The money came in 18 bundles and was wrapped in 18 brown envelopes. While this was going on, Mendiola was seen using his cell phone to place calls and send text messages.

But PAL sources had another story. They said that a flight crewmember asked Mendiola to disembark and open his bag at the boarding gate after he refused to let any of the crew touch the bag.

"The flight crew tried to help him place the bag in the cabin. But this guy refused. The crew became suspicious that the bag could contain explosives and asked him to go back to the boarding gate and open his bag," the sources said.

At the boarding gate, Mendiola unzipped the bag, exposing bundles of cash to the surprise of the airline staff. When asked who owned the cash, he was silent. It was then that they called airport security officers.

Mendiola, visibly shaken, gave conflicting explanations on how he got hold of the money.

He told some reporters that a stranger had given him the bag at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport pre-departure area and requested that he give it to another person who would be waiting for him at the Chap Lak Lok International Airport in Hong Kong.

"I didn't know that the bag contained money," Mendiola said.

When interviewed by an airport official, he claimed that he was asked by a friend to bring the cash to Hong Kong in exchange for a huge commission. He refused to name the friend.

"All these questions will be properly addressed once I'm charged in court," he said. He faces charges for violation of a central bank circular that prohibits a passenger from leaving the country with more than P10,000 in cash. *With a report from Roger Margallo*

George gone . . .

(From page A1)

said in his statement.

"Lately, the death threats have not only increased in frequency. They have also become more sinister and more vicious.

"The death threats have impacted on my health, aside from the mental anguish and sleepless nights. Upon advice of my doctors, I am therefore seeking treatment abroad soonest."

Make Your Smart Move in 2001
Let EDA Help You

We, at EDA, guarantee the public the best in management education. We provide individual guidance and free advice to participants, as well as comprehensive back-up and complimentary programs.

The quality, competence, and dedication of EDA have made our graduates recommend our various programs to their business associates, co-employees, employers, friends, and relatives.

Here are some of what our clients say:

- Rosario M. Galicia, Production Supervisor, Marsman Drysdale Foods Corporation.
  "The Supervisory Training enlightened me on how to be a good supervisor and it gave me more knowledge on handling people. Our speakers are effective, very helpful in terms of sharing new knowledge. They are very supportive."
- Wilhelmina Cadoralga, Purchasing Officer, Marigold Commodities Corporation
  "The Purchasing Seminar is very practical and easy to follow. Our speaker is well prepared, effective, well informed and approachable. Hindi siya nakakatakot at nakakahiyang kausapin."

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS FOR JANUARY 2001

- ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS
  January 20 – February 17 2001 Saturday 9:00AM–12:00NN
- SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING
  January 15 – 26 2001 M-W-F 6:00PM– 8:00PM
- ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MGRS. AND SUPERVISORS
  January 13 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
- CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
  January 15 – 26 2001 M-W-F 6:00PM–8:00PM
- EFFECTIVE VEHICLES MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT
  January 20 – February 3 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
- MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT
  January 13 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
- COST ESTIMATION FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
  January 20 – February 3 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
- PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL
  January 13 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
- WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
  January 20 – February 3 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL COURSE
  January 15 – 26 2001 M-W-F 6:00PM–8:00PM

EDA Seminars are accredited by
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
EDA Courses are also available on
Tutorial or in-house basis

EDA
EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
4 F. Manila Astral Tower, 1330 Taft
Avenue corner Padre Faura, 1000 Manila
521 8236, 523-6465, 524 6813

We accept made to order Playground Equipment, Garden or Camping Tents, Awnings, Canopies of any shape and size which are all ATTRACTIVELY PRICED.

tenthaus

ALSO AVAILABLE: PARTY TENTS FOR RENT

- FOR FAST, RELIABLE, DEPENDABLE SERVICE.
- TRIED & TESTED FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS.

e-mail: tenthaus@info.com.ph • Web: www.e-tenthaus.com

Those without Internet call: 872-3788 / 872-9067 (Main Office) TELEFAX: 872-2332
922-0432 (KAMIAS, Q.C.) or 895-5484 (PASONG TAMO)

The Great Italian Sale
SINCE JANUARY 6, 2001

30%
OFF and more on all 2000 collections.
(While supplies last.)

At Corso Marconi all items at P50 - 995
except shoes and December arrivals

LINEA ITALIA 6750
Ayala Avenue 815-3494 / 812-9166

VERSACE JEANS COUTURE
Greenbelt Mall 817-5470

VIVA
SM Megamall 633-2068
SM Cebu (032) 232-1443

PRIMA LINEA
Greenbelt Mall 819-59-17
SM Megamall 633-2070/72
Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5517

LINEA ITALIA
SM Manila 400-7909
SM Megamall 635-5695
Alabang Town Center 842-4749
Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5518

LINEA UOMO
Park Square I 815-1227
SM Megamall 633-2071
Alabang Town Center 807-2296
SM Cebu (032) 232-1499

corso MARCONI
2305 Marconi cor. Morse Sts.
Brgy. San Isidro, Makati 843-3942
Robinson's Galleria 637-5035
Festival Supermall Alabang 850-4033
SM North Edsa 927-2210
SM Fairview 418-2753
MC Nenita Bldg. I Mandaue City, Cebu
(032)3467160

UOMO TU
Greenbelt Mall 812-8523
Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5370

CAPOLINEA
Greenbelt Mall 893-2292
SM Cebu (032) 232-1434

LINEA ITALIA GROUP
www.lineaitaliagroup.com

D&G EMMEGI WEEKEND TRUSSARDI BEAT GFF FERRE CJ CAVALLI JEANS terzoatto PAL ZILERI BLU MARIELLA BURANI AVANT MaxMara VERSACE Valentina C. VERSUS allen capellino MOSCHINO JEANS Zinco MAX&Co. GIANFRANCO FERRE JEANS PHILOSOPHY di ALBERTA FERRETTI MARA MARINI sergio rossi FRANCESCA FALCONI SPORTMAX GALLIA LIU·JO SASCH ONYX motivi pietrogrande Manieri

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.3448 SERIES OF 2000

Erap owns BW, says Espiritu

(From page A1)

last card but I'm afraid it's not enough because his stories were fully invented and imagined," said Ernesto Maceda, the President's spokesperson on the impeachment trial.

President watched trial

Maceda disclosed that the President watched the impeachment proceedings on television.

In a hastily called press briefing last night, Maceda said the President never talked to Espiritu about BW.

"The President told me that he has never discussed BW with Ed Espiritu," he said.

But Maceda acknowledged that the President did talk to Espiritu by phone at the airport last month to "wish him good luck, *bon voyage*."

"You are leaving . . . we are friends. I may be of help to you. Just tell me," Maceda quoted the President as telling Espiritu.

Maceda also said that Tan had told him that there was even no conversation that transpired between Tan and Espiritu.

Violations

Private prosecutor Hernando "Nani" Perez said Espiritu's testimony would show that the President had intervened in the investigations of Tan's alleged insider trading and manipulation of BW stocks because the President was co-owner of BW.

Perez, a former congressman, defeated persistent objections from defense lawyer Raul Daza that Espiritu's testimony was not included in the third Article of Impeachment—betrayal of public trust.

Perez said Espiritu's testimony proved how the President violated his oath of office by concentrating on businesses for himself and his family.

The President also violated laws on conflict of interest by owning a company, which obtained a big loan from the government-owned Philippine National Bank (PNB), according to Perez.

Chief Justice and presiding officer Hilario Davide Jr. said Espiritu's testimony was relevant to the matter of stock manipulation.

He allowed Espiritu to talk about BW Resources but ruled that his testimony on the allegation that the President ordered the PNB to extend a P600-million behest loan to BW Resources should only be taken up today.

Espiritu said he noticed the phenomenal rise of BW shares sometime in May and June 1999 and this was a topic of his discussions with the President during a one-on-one meeting in Malacañang.

BW shares rose from P3 in May 1999 to P107 in October.

Regulators have said BW shares' yo-yo-like ride in late 1999 led to the near collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange in the biggest insider trading scandal in the country's history.

Indictment

A judicial inquiry later led to the indictment of Tan and three others for securities fraud, a crime punishable by up to 21 years in jail.

Espiritu said he started to believe what Tan had told him that the President was his partner in BW.

"*Kasi po noong una, hindi po ako naniniwala na* partner *ni Dante Tan ang Pangulo. Ang pumasok po sa isip ko ay totoo pala ang sinabi ni Dante Tan* (At first, I didn't believe that Tan and the President were partners in BW. But I realized that what Tan was saying was true)," Espiritu said.

The former finance secretary said this belief was reinforced in a succeeding meeting he had with the President when Mr. Estrada expressed his concern about the problems in the stock market arising from the rise and fall of BW shares.

Espiritu said he went to see the President alone after he met with then Trade Secretary Jose Pardo, Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis "Nonoy" Yulo and other PSE officials, and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

P1.8-billion float

Espiritu said the PSE officials were desperately seeking government intervention because the stock market was in danger of collapsing due to the P1.8-billion BW "float."

Float refers to the amount of money that brokers are not paying in connection with the trading of shares.

"The problem is so serious that something must be done about it. I was afraid if the investigation is not speeded up," he told the President in Filipino.

The President, Espiritu said, did not immediately reply.

"Tan is victim here and he lost a lot of money," the President reportedly remarked.

Espiritu said he was discouraged that the President did not issue any instructions to solve the stock market problem. He said he also became convinced that the President was an owner of BW.

"*Medyo po sumama ang loob ko at iyong pagdududa ko sa mga sinasabi ni Dante Tan (ay nawala at nakumbinsi ako na iyon) ay totoo pala,*" Espiritu said.

Don't testify

Espiritu said that on Dec. 12, 2000, he was waiting for his flight at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when he was paged to proceed to the counter because of a phone call from a certain Malou.

He said when he answered the phone, Malou told him that: "*Kakausapin ka ni* Boss (The Boss will talk to you)."

It was the President, Espiritu said.

"Ed, *balita ko ay magte*-testify *ka raw* (Ed, I heard you will testify)," the President allegedly told him.

Espiritu said he did not answer the question and instead told the President that he was leaving to spend the holidays in Los Angeles.

"*Eh, magkaibigan naman tayo, di ba? Baka naman meron akong maitutulong sa yo, sabihin mo lang at tutulungan kita* (Ed, we're friends aren't we? Maybe I could be of help. Just tell me and I will help you)" he quoted the President as saying.

Espiritu said he did not need anything and told the President he had already spoken to Manuel Zamora, the President's finance manager during his 1998 campaign.

"*Ah, ganun ba* (Is that so)?" the President said and their conversation was over.

Espiritu said Tan had approached him early in the term of the President to help him acquire a listed company for his unlisted group, which is involved in a bingo operation.

The listed company, which he could not recall, became the BW Resources.

Jimenez's 30-percent stake

Sometime after that, Espiritu said a worried Tan wanted to see him because he did not know that Mark Jimenez, who also helped finance the President's campaign, had acquired a 30-percent stake in BW Resources.

Tan, he said, told him that Jimenez, who later became the presidential adviser on Latin American Affairs, had wrested control of BW on instructions of the President. Espiritu said Tan asked him to help regain control of the company.

"How can I help you when the instruction came from your partner?" Espiritu recalled telling Tan.

He said Tan had told him that his partner was no less than the President.

"He admitted to me that President Estrada is his partner in BW Resources," Espiritu said.

Espiritu said a rift developed between Jimenez and Tan over control of BW Resources. At one point, Tan told him that the President had asked him (Tan) to cough up P150 million to regain control of BW Resources from Jimenez.

After his meeting in October 1999 with worried PSE officials, Espiritu said he summoned Tan to his office the following day and confronted him.

"The situation has become dangerous. If this thing explodes, the President and our country would be hurt," he told Tan in Filipino.

Tan, he said, argued that he was not at fault and was even the one who was losing money because of the manipulation by some of his business rivals.

He said Tan told him that Jimenez, Wilson Sy and Willy Ocier were manipulating the stocks. Sy is a former PSE chair and nominee of the Wealth Securities while Ocier is the chair of Belle Resources and a stockholder of Eastern Securities.

Jimenez was later fired by the President as his adviser after the United States sought his extradition for violating US laws with his illegal contributions to the Democratic Party.

Espiritu said that Tan told him that the President had summoned the three to Malacañang and scolded them.

Espiritu said the President, according to Tan, ordered Jimenez and the two others to "restore" the money that Tan lost in BW.

He said the meeting with Tan was followed by his meeting with PSE officials and the meeting with the President.

Exit interview

Espiritu said he wrote his irrevocable resignation on Jan. 5, 2000 effective immediately but he did not state his reasons because he would discuss this personally with the President in his "exit interview."

"I told the President that I was resigning because I could no longer take the things happening to government that were against my conscience," Espiritu said.

Daza moved to strike this response from the records. But Perez stated that one of the reasons was the BW manipulation, prompting Davide to caution him against putting answers on his witness' mouth.

Finally allowed to explain his reasons, Espiritu said he told the President to do something about his "unofficial friends" because their meddling had been causing problems in his administration.

Espiritu said he also told the President about the graft and corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BoC), agencies under the Department of Finance.

The former finance secretary said that he warned the President about BW Resources

"*Mahal na Pangulo, kahit nalulugi kayo mas mahalaga po ang inyong natitirang apat na taon* (My beloved President, even if you're losing in BW Resources) your remaining 4 years is more important," he told the President.

Espiritu said he asked the President to issue the following day a memorandum to the SEC and the PSE to come out with a report within 30 days and to state: "You don't care who gets hurt."

He said the President told him: "*Nandiyan ka naman, bakit wala kang nagawa? Mukhang nagsa*-sour-graping *ka lang* (You're there but why weren't you able to do something. It appears that you're just sour-graping)."

He said the President reiterated that he and Tan were the ones losing.

Espiritu's testimony was suspended because of the agreement that he would only be asked about the behest loans given by PNB to BW Resources today.

Tainted source

Maceda said Espiritu was a tainted source.

"He has created this story because he has a big grudge against the President and this administration," Maceda said, adding that for one, Espiritu was unhappy about the fact that the President failed to help prop up Espiritu's bank.

He was referring to the fall of Westmont Bank's subsidiary, Wincorp, which had been accused of "siphoning out more or less P4 billion pesos in bank funds."

Maceda said Espiritu was also unhappy about his being fired for failure to keep revenue up in the BIR and BoC.

"That is the reason why he has an axe to grind against President Estrada and this administration," he said.

He said that by bringing out Espiritu, the House prosecutors were only showing that their case was weak.

"This is their last card, but I'm afraid it is not substantial enough because it is a fully invented, made up and imagined story," he said.

"More than that, I am convinced that Espiritu is part of the big conspiracy that we have been talking about," he said, adding that those in the scheme are former President Corazon Aquino, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, leftist groups and Makati business groups.

Earlier, former PSE president Yulo talked about "rumors" among brokers that BW Resources was owned by Mr. Estrada.

"There were talks or rumors within the industry that ownership of BW probably extended up to the President but I have no documentation on that," Yulo said in open court. ***With reports from Armand Nocum, Martin Marfil and AFP***

Defense stops Yasay on other Erap deals

(From page A1)

Defense lawyer Raul Daza went to town raising objections when Gonzalez persisted on having Yasay testify on the purchase of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone by Hong Kong-based Metro Pacific and the China-Chang Jang case.

Daza maintained that Gonzalez should stick to asking questions related to the BW Resources scandal.

Gonzalez was nevertheless able to draw a crucial point when Yasay narrated that sometime in February or March 1999, he attended a meeting with the President and Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora at the Malacañang guesthouse.

Yasay said Mr. Estrada chided him for reversing an SEC en banc ruling in the China-Chang Jang case after he came back from his preventive suspension.

"*Kababalik mo lang, ni-reverse mo yung utos ko kay* (then SEC officer in charge Fe Eloisa) Gloria (You have just returned from your preventive suspension, yet you already reversed what I ordered Gloria to do)," Yasay quoted the President as telling him during the Palace meeting.

At this point, Daza again raised an objection on its relevancy to the BW allegations.

Tendering an offer of proof, Gonzalez said the line of questioning would eventually reveal the name of Guia Gomez, one of the President's mistresses, as being involved in the case.

Getting far away

Obviously irked, Senator-Judge Juan Ponce Enrile rose to submit a motion "that this line of questioning on collateral matter" be stopped.

"We're getting so far away (from the issue)," he said.

Gonzalez finally relented and proceeded to ask Yasay questions directly related to the BW Resources scandal.

According to Yasay, sometime in April 1999, he received a call from Mr. Estrada.

"*Masyado ka yatang seryoso dyan sa opisina mo, baka gusto mo 'kong pasyalan dito sa Malacañang* (You're so serious there at your office, why don't you visit me here in Malacañang)." Yasay quoted the President as telling him.

Yasay said he had offered Mr. Estrada to visit him the same night but was told to come the following night at around 7:30.

Arriving in Malacañang at the appointed time, Yasay said he was ushered to a sofa at the ground floor of the Guest House where he was told by Mr. Estrada to wait for another visitor whom he wanted to introduce to him.

An hour later, a person who later turned out to be Dante Tan, arrived.

"*Chairman, ito si Dante Tan. Matalik kong kaibigan, matagal ko nang kaibigan ito, bise presidente pa lang ako* (Chairman, this is Dante Tan. He is my best friend, he's been a friend for a long time even when I was still vice president)," Yasay recalled the President as saying to introduce Tan.

"*Sana matulungan mo siya, marami itong itinulong sa atin* (I hope you can help him. He has helped us a lot)," Mr. Estrada added to Yasay.

Yasay also testified that the same order was repeated to him by the President during the same meeting "at least three times."

Yasay said he asked what Tan's problem was but it was the President who answered for him, saying that the President's friend wanted to bring in foreign investors into the country and wanted more information on the investment climate.

Yasay invited Tan to come to his office the next day, which Tan did. He was accompanied by an assistant and a lady lawyer from Singapore. They were briefed on investment matters, particularly "backdoor listing."

The next time Yasay met Tan was in June 1999 when the latter came to his office at 4 p.m. without an appointment.

"He was complaining why I had sent an investigating team to his office to inquire about the books of BW Resources," he said.

Yasay said Tan had asked why BW was being investigated when he had not done anything wrong and that transactions entered into by the company were all transparent.

The former SEC chair reportedly told Tan that while the President had asked him to help Tan, he would be hesitant to do so if this would put Mr. Estrada in a bind.

President's (ex-)men . . .

(From page A1)

mors (before and at present) that the President owns a substantial portion of Dante Tan's corporation.

The prosecution is expected to link this testimony with those of Ruben Almadro, former head of the Compliance and Surveillance Group of the PSE, and Yulo in regard to the undue interest the President showed in the investigation conducted by the PSE on Tan's alleged stock manipulations.

The big "why" or reason behind the extraordinary interest shown by the President in Tan's case was answered by Espiritu. Not only because Tan was a close friend, but that the President had substantial interests in BW that compelled him to make calls directly to Yulo and former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. for Tan's sake.

Uncaring

Espiritu said a mouthful when he testified that the President, when informed about the difficulties the stock market was going through during the BW stock scandal, said Tan was a victim instead and that they (Tan and the President) had suffered tremendous losses from the mess.

Without saying it straight, Espiritu gave the picture of a President who was more interested in saving his friend rather than the stock market and, in the long run, the country. It showed that, in the President's scale of priorities, Tan's interests occupied a slot higher than that reserved for 75 million Filipinos.

Effective PR

Probably because of the significance of the message the prosecution wanted to convey to the country, through Espiritu's testimony, his direct examination was conducted in Filipino.

With lawyer Hernando Perez, a native of Batangas, conducting the direct examination and Espiritu, who hails from Cavite, giving the answers, the substance of the testimony was easily understood by the public. It was, no doubt, an effective public relations move.

Espiritu's statement that the BW stock scandal was one of the reasons that prompted him to leave his powerful government post served to underscore the seriousness of the betrayal of trust charge against the President.

When the highest official of the land can afford to ignore the advice of the man he put in charge to keep the country's finances in order to accommodate a friend or protect his personal interests, regardless of the consequences, then there is serious cause for worry about the fitness of that official to remain in power.

Credibility

Although Espiritu's direct examination has not been completed, it is safe to assume this early that his cross-examination will not come easy for the defense. His erstwhile closeness to the President is beyond doubt. He is an original Erap man who cast his fortunes with him when everyone else was saying hosannas to then President Fidel Ramos.

The former finance secretary had a front-seat view when the BW scandal blew up. He was part of the team of government officials who labored to minimize the adverse effects of the worst problem the Philippine stock market had undergone in its entire history. The effects of that controversy continue to linger to this day.

Undoubtedly, Espiritu knew he walked into a land mine when he agreed to testify for the prosecution. The defense lawyers are expected to dig out every skeleton in Espiritu's closet that they can find. The financial problems that had earlier shaken the Bank and investment companies he used to own will haunt him during cross-examination.

His integrity and character will be fair game for the defense. But cross-examination is a double-bladed weapon. If used properly, the process can give rise to the intended results. Otherwise, it can be fatal to the questioning party.

Friendly advice

As anticipated, Yulo breezed through the questioning by the senator-judges. He was treated kindly. The questions hardly raised a sweat on him. The senators appeared to respect his lofty position in the business world.

He was handled with such care that he was allowed to give a "discourse," as Senator-Judge Ramon Magsaysay Jr. put it, on why the President should have resigned instead of allowing himself to undergo the humiliation of an impeachment trial. It pained him, he said, that he had to give that advice to someone he considers a dear friend.

If other witnesses of lesser stature did what Yulo did, the President's perceived allies in the court, in particular, Sen. Miriam Santiago, would have raised an angry howl.

Like Espiritu, Yulo said a mouthful in the reply he gave senators when asked about his evaluation of the President: He would not hire him as chief executive officer. That statement reflected his sentiment on the "Erap Resign" movement which he did not deny to the senators.

Uncomplimentary to Yasay

Some of Yulo's answers to the senators' questions were not complimentary to Yasay. The former SEC chair had been pictured either as vacillating in his decisions on the BW scandal or panicky when confronted with difficult situations.

Yasay has a lot of clarifications to make about his conduct during the BW controversy when he undergoes scrutiny by the defense or the senators.

SEC investigation

Yesterday's hearing ended with Yasay still testifying on direct examination. The questioning by Prosecutor Rep. Raul Gonzalez of Yasay had been repeatedly interrupted by objections from the defense. On many instances, the objections were upheld.

The impression is created in the mind of the audience that the prosecution had not prepared adequately for the reception of Yasay's testimony. Lest it be overlooked, the alleged interference by the President in the performance of Yasay's duties vis-à-vis Tan is one of the most important, if not the most important, element of Article 3 of the Articles of Impeachment.

President says Cayetano lying

(From page A1)

former Sen. Freddie Webb would not be in jail right now.

"Where is Hubert Webb? He's in jail. So I did not intervene," the President said in an ambush interview after the New Year's vin d' honneur for the diplomatic corps.

The young Webb and six others were convicted last year of the grisly murders of Estrellita Vizconde and her two daughters Carmela, 19, and Jennifer, 7, in Parañaque on June 30, 1991. The case dragged on until Judge Amelita Tolentino of the Parañaque Regional Trial Court decided the case on Jan. 6, 2000. The conviction is now on appeal with the Supreme Court.

But Mr. Estrada admitted that former Senator Webb had indeed approached him.

"I told him, 'I'll see what I can do,'" the President said.

The President also questioned the timing of the senator's alleged bombshell as Cayetano revealed it at the time that he was accused of making about P70 million in the trading of BW shares.

"He's diverting the issues raised against him. Why is he raising the (Vizconde case) now when he is accused of making a lot of money from the BW scandal?" he said.

The President said the same was true with former Gaming and Amusement Board chair Antonio "Ambet" Antonio, who was convicted of the murder of basketball star Arnie Tuadles.

He said that when he was still Vice President, he was accused of intervening on behalf of Antonio.

"Now where is Ambet Antonio? Is he not also in prison? (So those are) fabricated stories and accusations," Mr. Estrada.

Cayetano, one of the judges in the impeachment trial of the President, alleged on Wednesday that Mr. Estrada had separately summoned Judge Tolentino and Senior State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño in 1999.

The senator said Tolentino told him the President had attempted to browbeat her into acquitting Webb. Cayetano said Zuño also told him he was asked to throw the government case against the suspect.

Cayetano had said his outburst was prompted by allegations he had personally profited from the BW Resources stock scandal that served as the basis for one of the impeachment charges against the President. He alleged that the President was behind the "black propaganda" against him.

The President insisted that he did not try to intervene in the case.

Confirmed

Sources at the Department of Justice earlier confirmed that the President had indeed tried to pressure officials at the DOJ to lighten up on Webb.

But the DOJ officials led by former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas resisted the pressure from the President.

Cuevas was later sacked allegedly for not giving in to several of the President's requests.

Former Senator Webb accused Cayetano of obstruction of justice for admitting that he talked to Judge Tolentino before she handed down the verdict on the Vizconde murder case.

Uncorroborated

In a statement, Webb said he and his lawyers had long suspected that Cayetano had been seeing Tolentino secretly.

The meetings, Webb stressed, were meant to influence Tolentino into convicting his son and six others for the Vizconde massacre.

Webb branded as "uncorroborated statements" and "incredible" Cayetano's statements on the alleged intervention of Malacañang in the case. He also noted that Tolentino convicted the accused anyway.

"We didn't need to approach the President regarding the case because we were confident of the strength of our case and the acquittal of the accused. His (Cayetano) statements only show the depths of his moral depravity. Senator Cayetano is a truly dangerous man," Webb said.

Independent probe

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) called for an independent investigation of Cayetano's claim th[illegible] Estrada allegedly intervened in the Vizconde case.

VACC Chair Dante Jimenez said Cayetano's allegations were "very serious accusations, which must be answered immediately by President Estrada."

Lauro Vizconde, the family's patriarch and vice chair of the VACC, said he was willing to cooperate in an independent investigation of the alleged intervention by the President.

For his part, Ernesto Maceda, the President's spokesperson on the impeachment trial, called for the disqualification of Cayetano as a judge in the impeachment trial.

In a statement, Maceda said Cayetano had "crossed the line of impartiality" due to his alleged involvement in the BW Resources scandal and his accusations that the President had obstructed justice in connection with the Vizconde massacre.

Maceda said Cayetano's allegation that the President had sought the acquittal of the young Webb did not even have any bearing on the impeachment case.

"Therefore, he is directly and intentionally trying to influence the impeachment court about the President's character and actions," he said.

Maceda said that for weeks the Palace had "patiently tolerated Cayetano's coaching of the prosecution panel in the impeachment court."

Going too far

But last Wednesday, Cayetano went too far when he repeatedly referred to Mr. Estrada as "Jose Velarde," called for his resignation, accused him of staging a "demolition job" and argued with the President's counsels on whom to call to the witness stand, Maceda said.

"Senator Cayetano has committed a flagrant intentional foul and should be ejected from the playing court," Maceda said.

But in Davao City the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said it was supporting Cayetano.

Alvin Luque, Bayan-Davao City secretary general, said Mr. Estrada's supporters were trying to turn the tables on senators perceived to be critical of the administration.

"The Estrada administration is resorting to dirty tactics to destroy the credibility of a senator-judge like Cayetano who showed a critical mind on the President," Luque said.

Son joins fray

A son of Cayetano joined the fray and waged his own war against Dante Tan, a major stockholder of BW Resources, who alleged that the senator sold four million shares, made P70 million but paid for the shares much later when the Senate was already investigating the BW scandal.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano denied Tan's allegations that he, like his senator-father, benefited from the illegal inside trading involving BW shares.

The young Cayetano challenged Tan, a close friend of the President, "to face me anytime, anywhere'" to prove the allegations.

"It is grossly unfair that Mr. Tan mentioned my name without even qualifying that I did not ask him for the said shares and did not purchase or receive any of the said shares," he said.

Prosecutor, accuser

At the impeachment trial, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday asked the impeachment court to remove from the records of the trial Cayetano's accusations that the President asked justice officials to acquit the young Webb.

Enrile said Cayetano should not be allowed to sit as judge, prosecutor and accuser at the same time.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who had asked on the very first day that Cayetano's statements be referred to the Senate proper, modified Enrile's motion.

Sotto suggested that Cayetano's statements be allowed to remain in the records of the trial until the appropriate Senate committee decides what to do with his charges.

Sen. Raul Roco stressed the statements remain on record until a Senate decision.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. announced: "During the short break, we have a consensus that the matter shall indeed be referred to the Senate by order of the impeachment court." ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Volt Contreras and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

The draw proceeding held at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall last January 6, 2001 was headed by DTI Rep. Connie Ramos, Cecil Soliman, Emy Racca of Abenson and Bobet Littawa of Sharp.

Hurry, join now! You too can be the next lucky winner.

The 5th batch of winners in Abenson's Over P3 Million Anniversary Raffle Promo was drawn last January 6, 2001 in the Sta.Lucia East Grand Mall. A total of 135 appliances now belong to Abenson customers from Metro Manila and the nearby provinces like Rizal, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite.

Winning is actually easy. Every P1,000.00 worth of purchase from Abenson entitles the buyer to one (1) raffle coupon. Promo is applicable to a single purchase on cash or credit card at Abenson. Prizes include: 30 Sony Handycams, 30 JVC VCD Compos, 30 Panasonic Karaokes, 30 Carrier Aircons, 30 Sharp Color TVs, 30 Condura Refs, 30 National Refs, 30 LG Washing Machines, 30 Philips Cassettes/CD Players, 30 Sanyo Freezers, 30 Pioneer Mini Components, 30 Aiwa VHS Players and more.

This new year, you can still enjoy the functions of a brand new appliance giveaway, as there is one more draw to go! Just visit the Abenson branch nearest you and take home your dream appliance. The Anniversary Raffle promo is in cooperation with Walter Mart and Electroworld. It runs from June 9, 2000 until February 18, 2001. See posters for more details.

MTB's Kiray and two of Star Records' roster of talents Tin Arnaldo and Diane dela Fuente entertained the malling public.

ABENSON - YOUR BIGGEST APPLIANCE NETWORK THAT C.A.R.E.S. • ABENSON

ABENSON

LG

CTV CT-14J25MG
- 181 Channel Cable Compatible
- Better Picture Clarity/Sharpness

P6288

Washing Machine WS-5550
- Biggest Pulsator
- Drain Selector
- Rat-Proof Base
- Washer only

FREE ARIEL PACK

P3198

New Year
New Cheers

FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE ON SELECTED ITEMS

JOIN ANNIVERSARY Raffle OVER P3MILLION

PROMO DURATION: JAN. 12 - 15, 2001

SANYO

CTV AVM-21M8
- 21" (535mm)
- 181 Channels
- 26-Key Remote Control

P8498

HF-707N Upright Freezer
- Energy Saver
- Round Edge Door

P11138

Upright Freezer • 145 Liters (5 cu.ft.)

FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE

SHARP

Aphrodyi
79.88cm
(29")

CTV-29VJ200S
- Stereo Color Television
- 181 Channel Cable Ready

P19498

FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE

Karaoke HK-W370R
- 2000W PMPO
- With front guitar, keyboard CD/AUX input

LESS P1,000

P8998

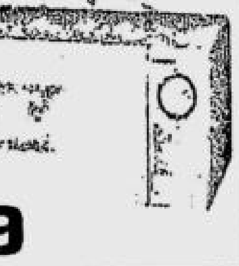
FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE

SAMSUNG

SR-34NMA 2-Door Ref.
- Bending Door Design
- Bar Handle
- 10 cu.ft

P18488

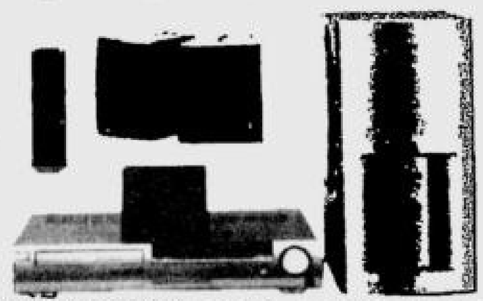
258 liters (10 cu.ft.)



MICROWAVE OVEN MW-3000W
- 0.5 cu.ft.
- Compact Size counter-top oven
- Mechanical Control-Rotating Turntable

P2999

SONY



HOME THEATRE DAV-S300
- Built-DVD Player
- Dolby Digital (AC-3) 5.1 Channel Decoder
- Digital Cinema Sound (5modes)

P34800

FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE

CCD-TR317 Handy Cam
- Stamina 16 Hrs.
- Video 8xR
- Nightshot 0 Lux
- 200 x Digital Zoom

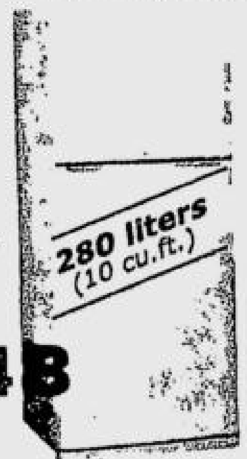
FREE FILTER KIT

P17999

Whirlpool

Washer AWT629
- 6.2 kg. Semi-automatic Twin Tub Washer
- Surgilator Agitator
- Built-in rollers
- Rat-Proof Base

P8998

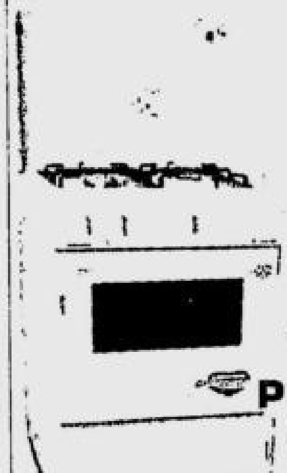


2-door Ref. WRN-28RNG4
- Frost Free Operation
- Tough See-Through shelves
- 100% CFC Free

P2094

280 liters (10 cu.ft.)

laGERMANIA



Gas Range 500W
- 3 Gas burner
- Manual gas oven
- Enamel Body

P7748

RANGEHOOD JET 4601WT
- Single motor
- White model

P3688

aiwa

FREE VCD SOFTWARE & MIC

VCD COMPO NSX-VC43
- 1700W PMPO
- Super T-Bass (3-step)
- Electronic Graphic Equalizer

P12488

FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE

VCD COMPO NSX-VC78
- 3200W PMPO
- Super T-Bass (3-step)
- Electronic Graphic Equalizer

P15988

PHILIPS

FREE VCD SOFTWARE

VCD CD-GV2
- High Compat (VCD/MP3/C
- New high end design
- Full Karaoke Function

P5218

FREE PORTFOLIO BAG/VHS KARAOKE TAPE

Video Cassette Player VP20
- Dig. Tracking
- Auto Head Cleaning

P4138

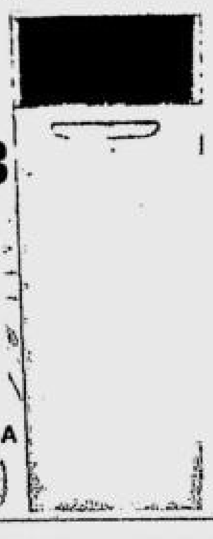
Carrier

LESS P600

Room Aircon APMRM090STD
- 1 HP
- Ordinary window-type aircon

P14348

FREE PABUENAS PACKAGE



ASBFM360BA (3 Toner)

PROMO DURATION: JAN 12 - 21, 2001

E-mail us at abshmkt@the.net.ph

PER DTI NCR PERMIT #1196 & 1198, SERIES OF 2000

METRO MANILA

ALABANG
Tels. 850-8848 to 50

ALABANG - FILINVEST, FESTIVAL MALL
Tels. 650-3775 or 79

CUBAO - FARMERS
Tel. 911-1071

CUBAO - RUSTAN'S
Tels. 911-2312/13

ERMITA - ROBINSONS
Tels. 536-8029/536-7914

FAIRVIEW - REGALADO
Tel. 937-5911

GREENHILLS - UNIMART
Tels. 721-0590/84

HARRISON PLAZA
Tels. 521-8568/69

KALOOKAN - GRAND CENTRAL,
Tels. 363-5246/383-5338

LAS PIÑAS
Tels. 872-0576/77

MANDALUYONG
Tels. 631-5188/ 631-8161 to 64

MUNTINLUPA - METROPOLIS
Tels. 809-8172/74

MAKATI - QUAD 1
Tels. 812-6748/8163911

NOVALICHES - BIG R HYPERMART
Tel. 938-6901

ORTIGAS - EVER
Tels. 656-6643 to 47

PARAÑAQUE - PEARL PLAZA, TAMBO
Tel. 851-8401 to 05

PASONG TAMO - WALTERMART
Tels. 813-4444/894-3730

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Tels. 632-9101 to 05

E. RODRIGUEZ - WALTERMART
Tel. 724-2528

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA
Tels 638-8017 to 19

SM CITY CARPARK
Tels. 920-9151 to 53/926-8829

SUCAT - JAKA
Tels. 829-2686/88

BATANGAS

LIPA BATANGAS - FIESTA WORLD MALL
Tel. (043) 404-1657
(043) 404-1655

BULACAN

BULACAN - MEYCAUAYAN
Tel. (044) 228-2117

CAVITE

CAVITE - CARMONA
Tel. (046) 430-2702 to 04

CAVITE - ROSARIO
Tel. (046) 438-5450

IMUS, CAVITE - LOTUS
Tel. (046) 515-5749

IMUS - ROBINSONS
Tels. (046) 875-2448/49

DASMARIÑAS - WALTERMART
Tel. (046) 416-2104

CEBU

R-ABENSON, CEBU
Tel. (032) 253-9328

LAGUNA

PAVILION MALL, BINAN LAGUNA
Tel. (049) 411-4510/11

SAN PABLO, LAGUNA
Tel. (049) 562-8242

WALTERMART, CALAMBA
Tel. (049) 545-7035

WALTERMART, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA
Tel. (049) 549-1243

RIZAL

CAINTA, STA. LUCIA 1
Tels. 645-0402/04

CAINTA 2, STA. LUCIA 3
Tels. 681-5301 to 05

TARLAC

LUISITA, TARLAC
Tel. (045) 985-1278

NOW WITH 37 BRANCHES TO SERVE YOU BETTER

ABENSON - YOUR BIGGEST APPLIANCE NETWORK THAT C.A.R.E.S. • ABENSON

ENJOY LOWEST RATES ON CREDIT CARDS

BPI Express Credit

Equitable VISA

RCBC BANKARD ONE

CITIBANK

METROBANK

UNICARD

MEGALINK PAYLINK ALSO ACCEPTED

New Year Offer FREE PABUENAS GIFT PACK ON SELECTED MODELS

GET MORE VALUE SHOPPING with ABENSON VALUE CARD

Buy & Earn more points REWARDS

enjoy EXTENDED WARRANTY AWARD thru

SMALL APPLIANCE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM available

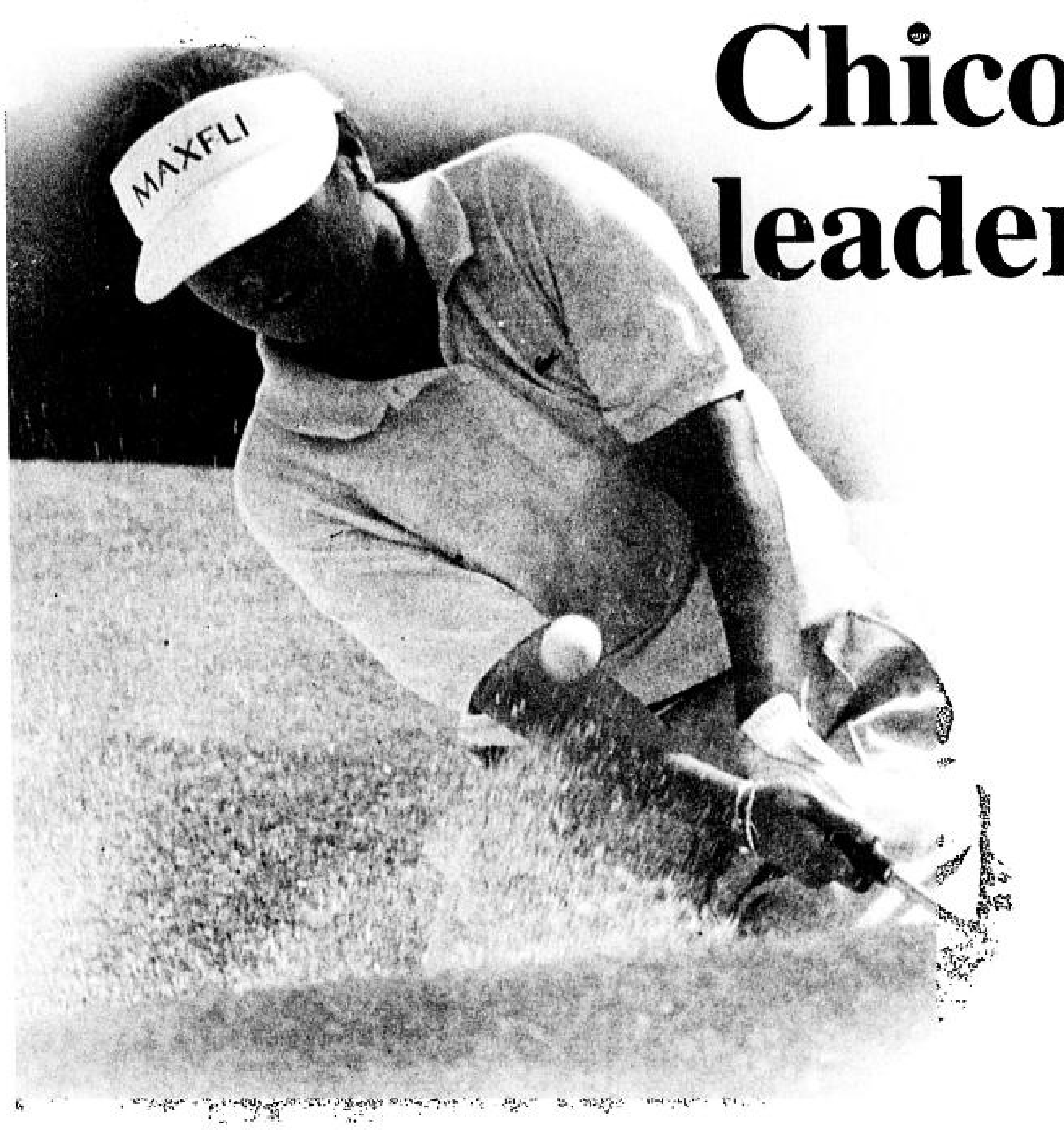
APPLY NOW! EASY INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

Appliance INTERNET Shopping thru myAyala.com GLORIETTA

You too can be the next lucky winner!

WATCH OUT! 6TH DRAW OF THE 30th ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE PROMO ON FEB. 24, 2001 @2pm

Chico-Walker new leader at Wack Wack



RUBY: Recalling her old form. ROMY HOMILLADA

BY JONG ARCANO

REACHING out to her happy teenage memories at Wack Wack, Ruby Chico-Walker seems to have found the career boost she's been looking for all these years.

Chico-Walker, still trying to regain the touch that made her a bemedalled amateur three years after coming out of retirement, showed traces of her old self in a round of six-over-par 78 yesterday that gave her the 36-hole lead as Lucy Landicho collapsed in the PLDT-Philippine Ladies Open.

Two-under through seven holes and only 1 over after the 15th, the 1988 champion Ruby who married a teaching pro from Scotland five years ago, came crashing back to earth with a series of bloopers in the final corner.

Ruby's disastrous windup—a double-bogey on the 16th and a wet triple-bogey on the 18th came as a big reprieve to her rivals who again proved no match to the punishing length and tricky greens of the venue.

"Could have been better but I'm really glad to be in the lead," said Chico-Walker, who honed her game at Wack Wack as a dependent of her grandfather.

"I get sentimental playing this course because it's where everything started," she said.

Now a mother to 4-year-old Stephanie, Chico-Walker is just about to end a five-year victory drought since winning the 1995 Southern Ladies in Bacolod.

It's not going to be easy, however, as serious danger lurks with two young members of the Taiwan national team not too far behind.

Shih Huei Jun, who kept his hold of second place at 158 following an 80, and Hung Chin Huei, jumping to solo third at 159 with her 79, will be with Chico-Walker in today's exciting final pairing.

Four other homegrown bets are also still in contention as Aileen Yao (81) and jungolf standout Jayvee Agojo (81) stood within four strokes of the pacesetter at 160.

Heidi Chua, daughter of a Wack Wack member, clinched the day's low medal honors with a 76 to be with Carmelette Villaroman Calimag (78) at 161.

Landicho's game fell apart right from the start as she dropped five strokes on the first three holes. She went from bad to worse and ended up with an 88 to fall eight shots behind.

"Umpisa pa lang masama na, hindi na tumigil ang sabog (I started really bad and I never got to recover)," said Landicho.

The second round scores:
156 - Ruby Chico-Walker 78-78
158 - Shih Huei-Jun 78-80
159 - Hung Chin-Huei 80-79
160 - Jayvee Agojo 79-81, Aileen Yao 79-81
161 - Carmelette Villaroman-Calimag 83-78, Heidi Chua 86-76
164 - Lucy Landicho 76-88
165 - Sarah Jane Esguerra 78-87
168 - Tracy Locsin 82-86

DELASIN

Jan. 15 'Delasin' deadline

PARTICIPANTS in the tournament dubbed "A Day With Dorothy Delasin Part 2" on Jan. 17 at Riviera have until Jan. 15 to file their registration at either Riviera or NGAP offices.

The tournament is in honor of PSA's Athlete of the Year Dorothy Joy Delasin, who will fly in by business class through the assistance of Cinnabon Rolls and Shell.

Toyota has staked an Echo Verso as a hole-in-one prize in any of the four par-3s at Riviera's Langer in the tournament hosted by NGAP through its president Rod Feliciano.

Citgo, Mizuno and Solahart in cooperation with Riviera president Danny Pizarro and Riviera GM John Blanch will provide raffle and special prizes to the participants.

Hole sponsors are pegged at P10,000 per hole, entitling the sponsor two players who will enjoy free caddie fees, green fees, breakfast, *merienda* and lunch.

Only the first 60 individual applicants paying P2,500 each will get priority billing to the tournament.

Aside from the two business class tickets for Dorothy and her father, Sonny, Cinnabon Rolls and Shell also assured a 5-star hotel billeting for the Delasins. Transportation will also be provided for the duo during their four-day stay in Manila.

Benny Gopez of the tournament committee said early invitees include PSC Chair Butch Tuason, Olympic boss Cito Dayrit and PSC Commissioners Richie Garcia and Weena Lim.

Bernardino, Yenko earn PBA top posts

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BERNARDINO

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino earned a fresh mandate even as Ignatius Yenko of Mobiline assumed the chairmanship of the Philippine Basketball Association after the Board of Governors elected its top officials for the league's 2001 season Tuesday night at the Manila Golf Club.

Also approved in the meeting was the holding of the Annual Draft of the league's 27th season on Sunday at the Glorietta Activity Center.

"We look forward to the coming PBA 2001 season," said Bernardino. "The number of applicants for the Draft is indeed a very encouraging sign, and in all candor, we are looking forward to a great season ahead."

A total of 57 aspirants pruned from an original list of 65 have been found eligible to enter the Draft along with four Fil-Americans, who got the PBA nod after receiving the required documents from the applicants.

The All-Filipino Conference will start on Jan. 28.

"While the prospects of the economy getting better are not as bright, we are confident that your PBA, as in the past 26 seasons, will be able to stand the test of time," added Bernardino, who has tied Leopoldo Prieto as the longest serving commissioner with his eighth term.

Yenko replaced Alaska's Wilfred Uytengsu.

Along with Yenko, the board also named Butch Alejo of Purefoods as vice chair while Joey Concepcion of RFM was elected treasurer.

PBA legal counsel Butch Cleofe was elected board secretary while Lito Anzures retained his post as marketing head.

The PBA board also lauded the league's increase in gate receipts last year despite the Fil-American player scam and the economic and political crunch the league had experienced.

Last season, the PBA tallied a total gross gate receipt of P58,391,555, which is 23 percent better than the 1999 figure of P47,485,780. The PBA earned an average of P526,050 gross gate receipt per playing day as compared to the P443,792 average in 1999.

Dorothy, Jennifer start play tomorrow

LAST year, she was just among the ordinary rookies eyeing a little attention in the LPGA. This season, Dorothy Joy Delasin has joined the roster of celebrities all ready for the glory and big money at stake.

Delasin, the 2000 Tour Rookie of the Year, and another Filipino campaigner, Jennifer Rosales, will debut in the YourLife Vitamins LPGA Classic at the Grand Cypress Resort courses in Orlando, Florida.

The $1-million season-opener starts Friday (Saturday Manila time) with Karrie Webb, last year's Player of the Year who was main honoree of the annual LPGA annual awards dinner last Monday like Delasin, and the rest of the top guns disputing the $150,000 champion's prize.

The 20-year-old Delasin will be playing the first leg before she enplanes for Manila to receive the Athlete of the Year award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association on Jan. 18. She flies back to Florida three days after for the Office Depot leg on Jan. 25-28.

Delasin will reunite on the course with sister Divina, who will caddie for her in most of her LPGA stints this season.

"She (Dorothy) feels that I deserve a rest. I'll see what happens in the first few legs and if it turns out well I will have to give way to both of them the whole year," Dorothy's father Sonny, who had served as her caddie-coach up to last year, told the INQUIRER.

While Delasin aims for a better season than her spectacular performance last year where she finished 25th in the money list and won $339,112 built around a big victory in the Giant League LPGA Classic, Rosales will try to redeem herself from a forgettable LPGA debut.

Cuetec billiards finals on

GUTSON'S Romy del Rosario and Monching Mistica of Action Billiards dispute the crown today in the finals of the Cuetec 9-Ball Billiard Open at the MPTC Sports Bar.

Mistica trounced John Boyet Millanes of JFM Cards, 7-5, while Del Rosario defeated Mario Tolentino of Springmaid in the semifinals to set up the titular showdown.

Sponsored by Cuetec Cues, renowned as the largest selling cue in the world, the finals will be shown at 11 tonight on SBN 21.

Before downing separate opponents in the semis, Del Rosario topped Anton Nicolas of Topstick while Mistica outlasted Oca Camoro of Rommel Billiards in the quarters.

Other quarterfinal results were Millanes besting Ray Cirian and Tolentino beating Boy Cornello of I & CS.

Cuetec Cues has been holding the tournament since the start of the year with a series of professional billiard competitions held at the MPTC Sports Bar.

The tournament started with a qualifying round at the Gutson's Bar and Billiards.

Year's best feted Jan. 18

THE COUNTRY'S top sports achievers in year 2000, led by PSA Athlete of the Year awardee Dorothy Delasin, the members of the RP contingent in the Sydney Olympics and those who helped uplift the state of Philippine sports will be feted in glittering rites during the PSA Awards Night on Jan. 18 at the Holiday Inn Manila.

Delasin, the Daly City-based Fil-Am who was unanimously voted as the year's top athlete for her remarkable rookie campaign in the US LPGA Tour, will arrive Jan. 17 to personally receive her award, the first such honor bestowed on a Fil-Am talent.

Six others will be recipient of the major awards, namely World Boxing Council flyweight champion Malcolm Tuñacao, Grandmaster Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor, racing champion Angelo Barretto, pro cager Danny Ildefonso, amateur cager Ren-Ren Ritualo and physically-challenged powerlifter Angeline Dumapong.

The three-hour rites, exclusively for PSA members and their guests, will be telecast on a later date by Viva-Vintage Television over IBC-13.

Also to be honored are the RP Olympians, including taekwondo jins Roberto Cruz, Eva Marie Ditan, Jasmin Strachan and Donald David Geisler and boxers Larry Semillano, Romeo Brin and brothers Arlan and Danilo Lerio, trackster Lerma Balauitan, steeplechaser Eduardo Buenavista, archer Jennifer Chan, equestrienne Toni Leviste, rower Benjie Tolentino, shooter Rasheya Jasmin Ruiz, swimmers Miguel Mendoza, Carlo Piccio, Jenny Rose Guerrero and Liza Danila, and divers Zardo Domenios and Sheila Mae Perez and paralympian javelin thrower Andres Lubin.

Citations will also be given to the deserving athletes, teams and organizations in recognition of their achievements both in local and international sporting front and their contribution to the development of sports.

Agassi makes it; Sampras loses

MELBOURNE—Pete Sampras wasn't overly concerned about two losses and Andre Agassi wasn't especially impressed by two come-from-behind victories in a warm-up tournament for the Australian Open.

Sampras lost 6-4, 7-6 (5) to Patrick Rafter, who was at his acrobatic best, in a losers' bracket match Thursday at the Colonial Classic. Agassi beat Nicolas Escude 3-6, 7-5, 6-1, advancing to the final.

Sampras, the betting favorite for the Open, starting Monday, said, "As long as I'm hitting the ball well and feeling well, I think I'm getting there." *AP*

Birkenstock
World-Class Sandals
Feet First in Comfort and Style

Available in Footluckers Chain of Stores, Happy Bodega Sales and all leading shoe stores nationwide.

Tuason orders probe of scribe's attack

BY JUNE NAVARRO

A SPORTSWRITER from a major daily was beaten up yesterday allegedly by two staffers of Commissioner Leonardo Celles of the Philippine Sports Commission.

The attack was supposed to be an offshoot of an article written by Miramon Nuevo of Today implicating Celles' staffers to an alleged irregularity regarding the purchase of sports equipment.

Nuevo sustained a busted lip inflicted by suspects Jesus Sta. Maria Paolo, Celles' chief of staff, and PSC clerk Eugene Garcia.

PSC Chair Carlos Tuason immediately formed an investigating committee composed of PSC senior executive assistant Horacio Miranda, legal officer Julia Llanto and PSC assistant personnel manager Manuel Ibay to look into the case.

Paolo, co-terminus with Celles' term, and Garcia, a contractual employee, were immediately placed under preventive suspension as recommended by Celles pending resolution of the investigation.

Nuevo had his case blottered at Police Station 9 near Manila Zoo.

"The PSC will never condone any act of violence especially against the media. We will take swift action as soon as Mr. Nuevo files his complaint," said Tuason, who assured Nuevo's safety within the Rizal Memorial Compound.

Tuason said that once the investigation committee finds Paolo and Garcia guilty as charged, the PSC will immediately deal administrative sanctions on the two.

They face immediate termination of their duties.

Sportswriters covering the PSC-POC beat called for the immediate termination of Paolo and Garcia.

According to Nuevo, Paolo and Garcia, without provocation, beat him up a few minutes after having a chat with Celles' secretary, Karen dela Rosa.

Dela Rosa said Paolo wrapped his arm around Nuevo's head and then Garcia threw punches at Nuevo.

Paz advances in Funboard winner's bracket

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Reign of Glory 2. Woman's Task 3. Baptism of Fire 4. Much Obliged
Race 2—1. Marvelous Jay 2. Ladies Night 3. Showtime
Race 3—1. Jackpot Baby 2. Dynasty 3. Silver Lining 4. Arigato 5. Gun Express
Race 4—1. Might and Power 2. Mr. Purao 3. Dynamite Miss
Race 5—1. Very Sharp 2. Cyberspace 3. Deputy Royale 4. Shining Jo 5. Winning Post
Race 6—1. Friends 2. Aquarius Best 3. Poblacion 4. Timber Nectar 5. Big Daddy Cool
Race 7—1. Latin Beat 2. Bull Rider 3. Avalanche 4. Dixie Dancer 5. Hurry Prince/Extraordinaire
Race 8—1. Nobel Prize 2. American Beauty 3. Go Johnny Go 4. Above All 5. Plus Factor/Pro Bono
Race 9—1. Champs Elysees 2. Be Ready 3. Profit Margin 4. Noble Win 5. Roman Queen
Race 10—1. Silver Flyer 2. Pacific Dancer 3. Jackpot 4. Cherish Emblem 5. Nevada Dancer

BORACAY—National team mainstay German Paz made the most out of unfavorable sailing conditions Wednesday to advance to the winners' bracket of the Cutty Sark Boracay Funboard Cup—the opening leg of the Asian Windsurfing Tour.

The 23-year-old Paz, who won a silver in the 1995 Chiang Mai SEA Games, and a bronze in Jakarta two years later, finished fourth in Heat 6, joining compatriots Manny Cabili, Jimmy Cedullo and Reneric Moreno, and 10 foreigners in the crucial Heat 9 scheduled Thursday.

Paz, whose elder brother Richard won the windsurfing gold in the 1993 Singapore SEA Games, will have to give it his best in Heat 9 since that race could already determine the division winners should races in the next few days get cancelled due to lack of winds (minimum of 12 knots).

"*Importante ang* Heat 9 *dahil nga kung ma*-cancel *ang mga susunod na karera, doon na kukunin ang* division champions. *Pero imposible naman dito sa* Boracay *na ma*-zero *tayo sa hangin hanggang Sabado*," said Paz, out to defend the men's title (29-under) he won last year.

Cutty Sark teams members who were relegated to the losers' bracket (but still not out of it all yet) after six heats were Rico Cumayas, Ian Bautista and Eduardo "Visegrip" Fajermo, the 1991 SEA Games gold medallist who came in ninth in a field of 14 in Heat 6 where Australians Mike Nelson and Robbie Radis scored a 1-2 finish.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Illinois Fighting Illini vs Iowa Hawkeyes at 8:30 a.m. (r –4:30 p.m.) Duke Blue Devils vs NC State Wolfpack tomorrow at 3 a.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA - Indiana Pacers vs Phoenix Suns at 9 a.m on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

15th ABC Championship for Junior Women 2000 Highlights tomorrow at 1 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: Senior PGA Tour Year in Review 2000 at 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Chess simul matches at RMSC

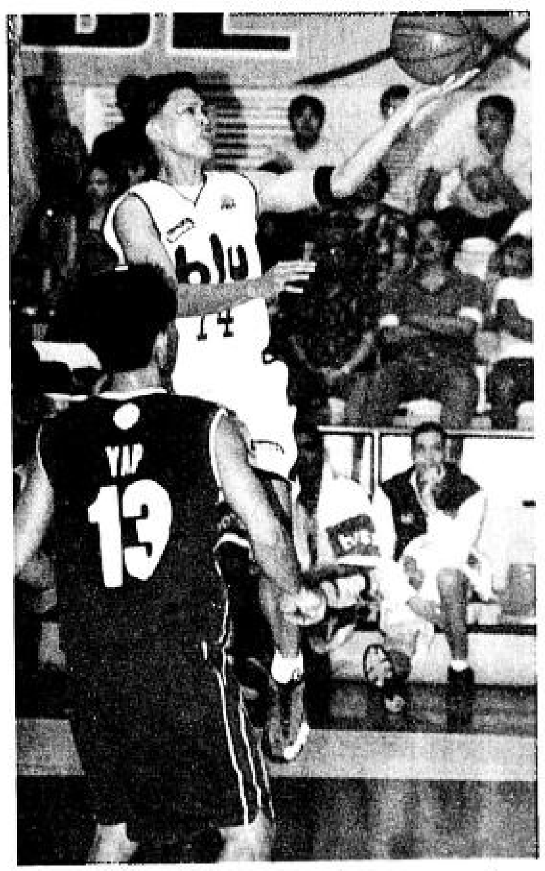
IM Rafaelito Maninang Jr. and NM Jerry Nodado will perform a simul-clock exhibition matches tomorrow, Jan. 13, against the early enrollees of the first series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-clinic. The matches at the badminton building of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex start at 9:30 a.m. For details, please call MCC at 826-8560.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Blazers halt 76ers winning run

PHILADELPHIA—Rasheed Wallace had 18 points and 10 rebounds as Portland whipped Philadelphia, 93-75, to post its ninth straight win and end the 76ers' seven-game run in the NBA Wednesday. Other results: Boston 88, Miami 76; Seattle 104, Washington 101; Toronto 110, Detroit 85; Dallas 106, Minnesota 86; Sacramento 108, Cleveland 103; LA Clippers 92, Denver 86. *AP*



BLU swingman Eric de la Cuesta soars for a layup as Shark's Roger Yap looks helplessly. DENNIS SABANGAN

CHALLENGE CUP

Shark rips Blu, stays ahead

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	9	2
Welcoat	8	3
Montaña	6	4
Blu Sun Power	6	5
Hapee	5	6
Ateneo-Pioneer	4	6

Games tomorrow:
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—MLQU-Boysen vs Skyland Estate (PYBL)
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Montaña Jewels

By DENNIS U. EROA

THE "LEGASPI Tower" crumbled to pieces as Shark Energy Drink registered a methodical 64-56 victory over Blu Sun Power last night in the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Pestered by Shark's tireless rotating defense, Marlon Legaspi had an agonizing night, scoring just five points and grabbing five rebounds. His woeful show had a terrible effect on the usually fluid Blu offense which became predictable.

"We have ample time to prepare against Legaspi and the other Blu reliables," said Shark mentor Leo Austria, who with assistant coaches Jing Ruiz and Dayong Mendoza, ably scouted and exploited Legaspi's weaknesses.

The Energy Drink Kings kept solo leadership with 9-2 win-loss card, while the Detergent Kings dropped to 6-5.

Enforcer Gerard Ortega, Irvin Sotto, Erwin Velez and Ryzal Castro alternated on the 6-foot-4 Legaspi. Blu's guards also failed to give Legaspi the ball underneath and was forced to take long shots.

The scores:

MLQU 78—Saygo 20, Rivera 16, Habelito 16, Mallari 10, Medenilla 8, Albano 4, Pinera 2, Santico 2.

LETRAN-DAZZ 56—Junio 17, Sta Cruz 11, Enrile 8, Kong 6, Ang 5, Misolas 4, Tiongco 3, Moreno 2.

Quarters: 15-22, 32-37, 51-44, 78-56.

SHARK 64—Yap 14, Echavez 11, Velez 7, Tolomia 6, Ortega 6, Malabanan 6, Robinson 6, Castro 4, Sotto 2, Ybañez 2.

BLU 56—Bacani 14, De la Cuesta 12, Billones 8, David 7, Kalaw 6, Sanz 4, Calo 0, Bona 0, Marasigan 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 31-33, 49-46, 64-56.

Lyceum, Olivarez prevail.

LYCEUM and Olivarez College yesterday posted their second straight wins in the McDonald's-NCRAA men's basketball at the Lyceum Gym.

Chico Lanete scored a career-high 32 points, while MVP contender Gary David added 30 as Lyceum downed PUP, 88-81. It was the 10th straight victory for the Pirates counting their 8-0 card in the eliminations. Olivarez needed an extra period to subdue Philippine Maritime Institute, 66-65.

PBL holds polls today

AMID a backdrop of a controversial GAB ruling, the PBL board meets today to elect the new set of officers who will decide the league's direction this year.

Dioceldo Sy, Blu Sun Power team owner, is expected to be reelected as chair for the second straight year.

Sy, in partnership with Commissioner Chino Trinidad brought back financial stablity to the league in the face of the country's economic crunch. The PBL also signed a memorandum of agreement with the PBA and the MBA regarding players' recruitment.

"I remain confident in the PBL's future," Sy told the INQUIRER.

The GAB has branded the PBL as "professional." The PBL has appealed to the Office of the President for a repeal of the GAB resolution.

Raymond Yu of Welcoat is also expected to remain as vice chair. The other PBL officers are (Treasurers) Dennis de Guzman, Jesse Chua and Rudy Mendoza.

Those expected to attend the meeting are (Blu) Silliman Sy, Jimmy Javier (PharmaQuick), Jonathan Guardo (Osaka Iridology), Nato Caluag (Ateneo), Jesse Chua (Shark), Cecilio de Pedro (Hapee) and Leo Isaac (Montaña).

Dennis U. Eroa

Reluctant Torion agrees to surgery

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PEPPERY Jimwell Torion of Batang Red Bull has finally agreed to undergo surgery for a dislocated shoulder within the week, with the operation likely to take place at the St. Luke's Hospital.

"Torion was reluctant at first, but he finally decided to go under the knife after much prodding and persistence from us, explaining that the surgery would permanently cure him of a career-threatening injury," said team manager Tony Chua. "It would take at least 10 months for Jimwell to completely recover although the period of full recovery might even be earlier. After all, he is still young at 25."

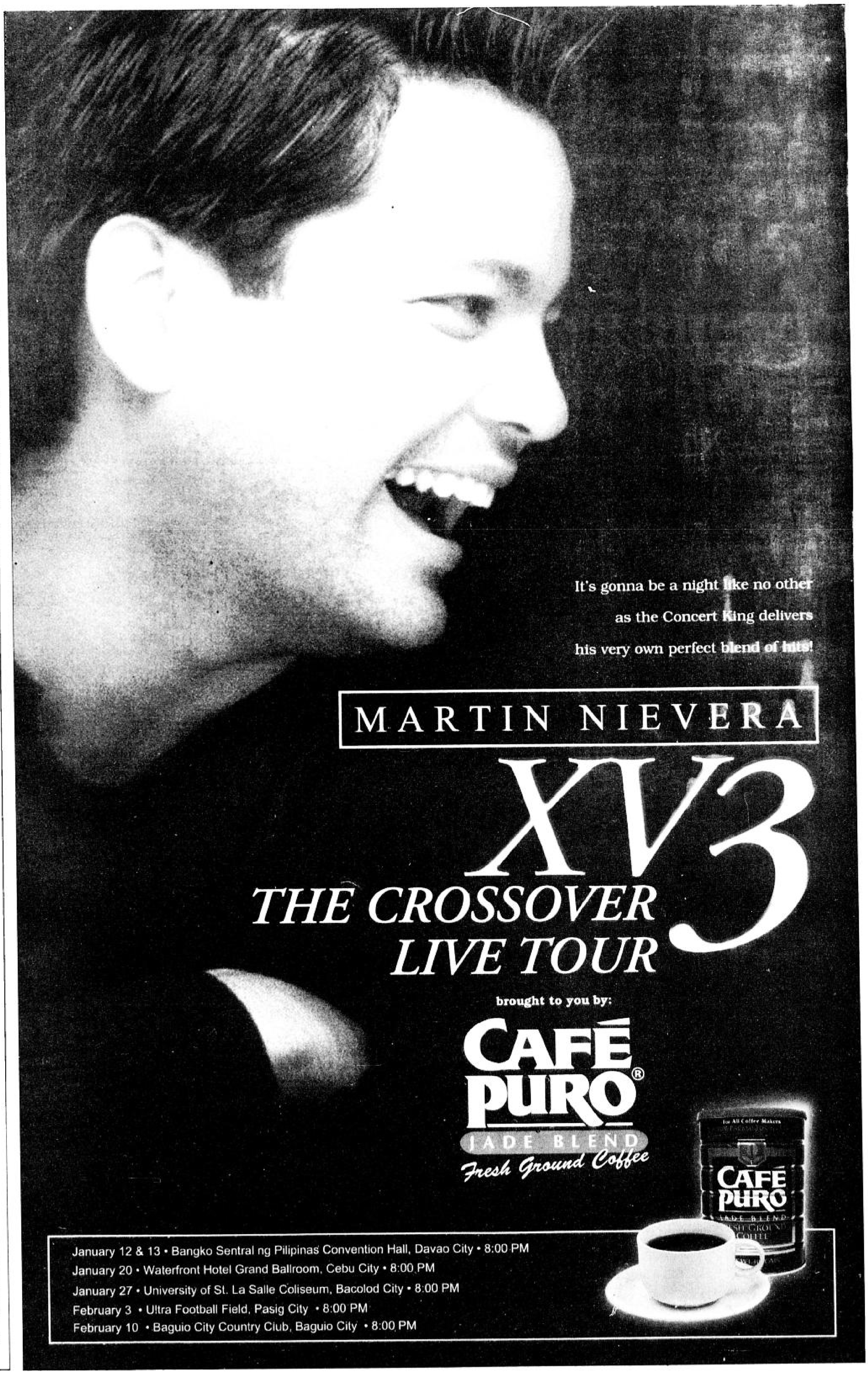
Torion typifies the poor boy who made good. A native of Cebu, the 5-foot-9 point guard was a virtual unknown before he came to the Big City. He first tantalized the Philippine Basketball League crowd with his gorgeous gifts of speed, ball-hawking and long-range shooting ability. And he became even more popular last year when the franchise team owned by sportsman-businessman George Chua joined the Philippine Basketball Association, the country's No. 1 sports league.

Now that Torion has opted to undergo surgery, many are asking: Who will fill the gap left by Torion?

Batang Red Bull supporters say coach Yeng Guiao is well-advised to pluck wily Willie Miller from among 57 qualified applicants in the PBA drafting on Sunday, Jan. 14.

Why Miller? Because the 5-foot-11 Miller, son of a Filipino mother and an American father based in Olongapo, has the God-given talents to play both the No. 1 (point guard) and No. 2 (shooting guard) positions. And with his rippling built, fancy plays, including the ability to dunk, Miller is certainly a plus-factor in the already powerhouse Thunder lineup. Also, Miller does not need to adjust to local playing conditions, having been a sparkplug of the Nueva Ecija Patriots in the Metropolitan Basketball Association. And being a true-blue Filipino, he is not also required to produce citizenship papers unlike other Fil-American players.

Of course, coach Yeng Guiao has the last say regarding his No. 1 choice. But right now, he is finding it hard to choose between Miller and Fil-Am John Arigo, a 6-foot-5 sharpshooter from the University of Tampa, because "both players are good." Miller and Arigo have been practicing regularly with the Thunder. And Yeng's problem has been aggravated, in some ways, by the coming of 21-year-old Michael Hrabak, a 6-foot-6 bundle of power from the Central Arizona College.



It's gonna be a night like no other
as the Concert King delivers
his very own perfect blend of hits!

MARTIN NIEVERA
XV3
THE CROSSOVER LIVE TOUR

brought to you by:
CAFÉ PURO®
JADE BLEND
Fresh Ground Coffee

January 12 & 13 • Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Convention Hall, Davao City • 8:00 PM
January 20 • Waterfront Hotel Grand Ballroom, Cebu City • 8:00 PM
January 27 • University of St. La Salle Coliseum, Bacolod City • 8:00 PM
February 3 • Ultra Football Field, Pasig City • 8:00 PM
February 10 • Baguio City Country Club, Baguio City • 8:00 PM

MAKRO is exclusively for licensed businesses only.

Be a member now!

makro mail

2001-01

Watch out for our special offers every week in major newspapers. More than 180 exciting offers available in the Makro Mail. Hurry! Visit Makro now!

OFFER AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES NATIONWIDE FROM January 3-16, 2001

OPEN EVERYDAY 7 AM TO 9 PM

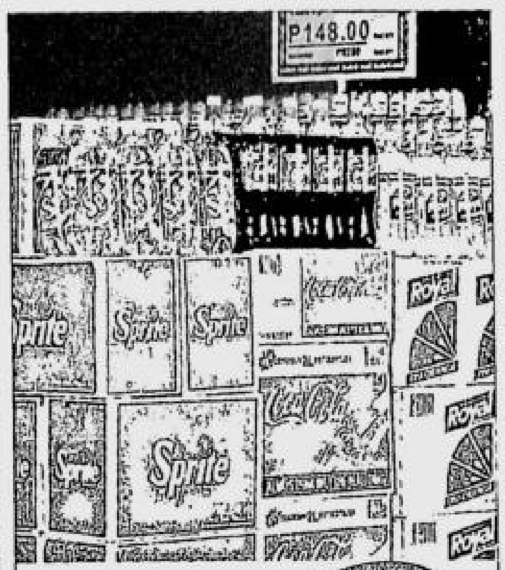
EXCEPT MANILA HARBOUR CENTRE (STORE HOURS 6AM-9PM) MAKRO PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE 10% VAT.

ARO Luncheon Meat
4 x 375 G.
P96 per pack
P24 per can

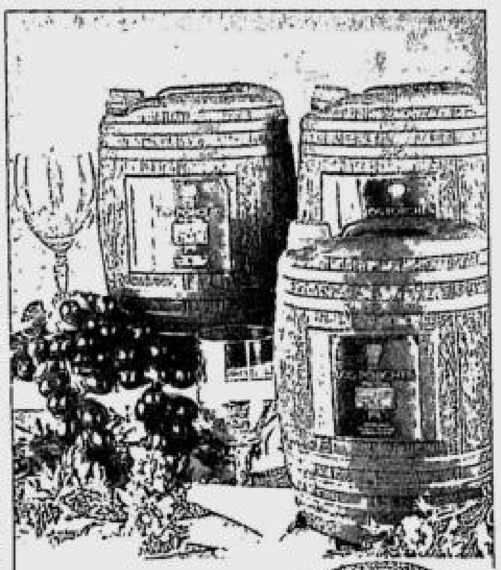
ARO Squid Ball
1 Kg.
P95 per pack

CHIPS AHOY
2 Cookie Pack
12 x 25 G
P64.50 per pack
P5.38 per 25 G.

OREO
2 Cookie Pack
12 x 21.5 G
P44.50 per pack
P3.71 per 21.5 G.



COKE, SPRITE & ROYAL TRU-ORANGE
8 X 2 L.
P229 per pack
P28.63 per bottle



LOS PORCHES Red Wine
5 L. Carafe
P289 per piece
P788.18 per case

MARCA PIÑA Soy Sauce
12 x 350 mL.
P80 per pack
P6.67 per bottle

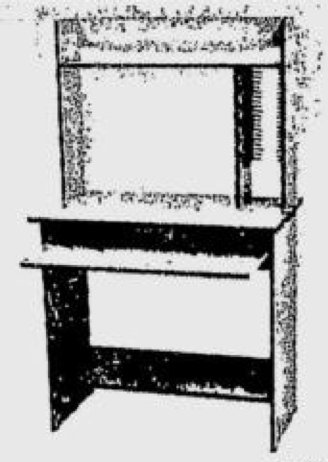
NATURE'S BEST Sinandomeng Rice
25 Kilos
P499 per sack
P19.96 per kilo

PUREFOODS Chicken Nuggets
Classic, Cheese, Barbecue
Pizza, Sour Cream
2 x 230 G.
P80 per pack
P40.00 per 230 G.

JACK & JILL Mini Chocolate Pretzels & Choco Knots
25 x 30 G.
P71.75 per pack
P2.87 per 30 G.

SELECTA MOO Choco Milk
10 x 200 mL.
P85 per pack
P8.50 per pc.

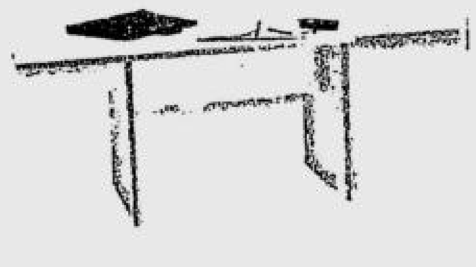
OFFICE CENTRE FESTIVAL



SANWA Computer Workstation
Grey Color
MK8102
P1,495

NB Computer Chair
with Gaslift
Grey Color
P599

NB Visitor's Chair
MidBack, Sled Type
Grey Color
P2,295



SDI Conference Table
Rectangular, Melamine Finish,
Grey Color
SDI-RCTI
P2,695

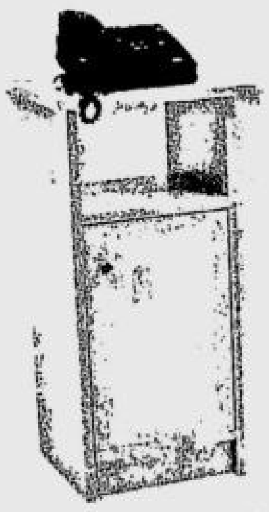
FREE
CANON
Prima
Camera

CANON Portable Copier
FC220S
P15,995

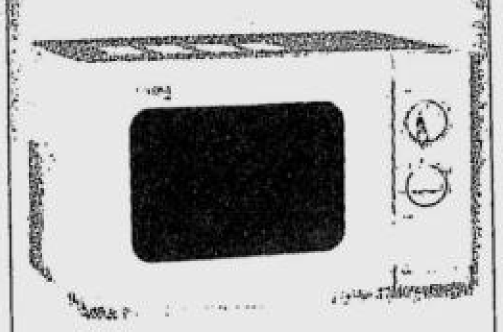
APPLE Men's Sport Shoes
M104
P99

PROMAC Desk Fan
16" "Windy"
Plastic Fan Blade
P495

Desk Lamp
PL9W
P139



NB Phone Stand
with Cabinet
31cm x 34 cm x 70 cm
P595



VISTRON Microwave Oven
0.7 cu. ft., VI-07M
220 Volts / AC
P2,379

NOW WITH 7 STORES TO SERVE YOU!

MAKRO Cainta : F. Felix (Formerly Imelda) Avenue, Cainta, Rizal : Tel. No. 656-7451
MAKRO Imus : Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Anabu I, Imus, Cavite : Tel. No. (046) 515-2222
MAKRO Novaliches : #402 Quirino Highway, Sangandaan, Novaliches, Quezon City : Tel. No. 936-2216
MAKRO Sucat : East Service Road, South Super Hi-way, Muntinlupa City : Tel. Nos. 850-6570 to 79
MAKRO Harbour Centre : Lot 11, Manila Harbour Centre, Radial Road 10, Vitas, Tondo, Manila : Tel. No. 256-3106
MAKRO Cebu : M. Logarta Avenue, Barrio Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu : (032) 345-9540 to 49
MAKRO Davao : Km. 7, McArthur Highway, Barrio Bangkal, Davao City : Tel. No. (082) 297-3615
Makro website : http://www.makro.com.ph

LIMITED STOCKS AVAILABLE

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Dead women's dump

AN UNIDENTIFIED woman, her feet bound with an electrical wire, was found dead in Estero de Quiapo in Quiapo, Manila on Wednesday, two days after the body of another woman floated in the same creek. Last year, Estero de San Miguel, also in Quiapo, yielded the bodies of five women, all apparently tortured, police said.

Jerome Aning

Cops and mulcters

PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Organized Crime Task Force agents on Tuesday arrested PO3 Louie Serrano and Bobby Baja of the Makati police for allegedly mulcting P610 from a couple they accused of engaging in lewd acts in their Starex van in the city. They were also accused of demanding money from a man they caught urinating at a street corner.

4.5M face waterless days if MWSS rejects rate petition–Maynilad

ALUNAN

By Leah Salterio

SOME 4.5 million people in Metro Manila's west zone would be the ultimate losers if the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) would reject the request of Maynilad Water Services Inc. for an automatic currency rate adjustment.

Maynilad, which services the west zone of the metropolis, has suffered P2.2 billion in losses due to the peso devaluation and might be forced to stop operating if its request is not granted, according to Maynilad president Rafael M. Alunan III.

"We dread the day when Maynilad will no longer be able to serve the poor because our government fails to fulfill its obligations," said Sister Christine Tan, one of those who have endorsed Maynilad's request.

That the water will stop coming is a distinct possibility, Alunan told the INQUIRER.

"Those people who are waiting in the wings to get connected will have to wait longer," he said.

"As for those who are already connected, as much as we can help it, we won't let them be affected," he added. "But if we lack the money to buy chemicals to treat the water or produce the amount for the daily and monthly needs, then we have to lower water production or ration the supply."

By proposing an automatic currency

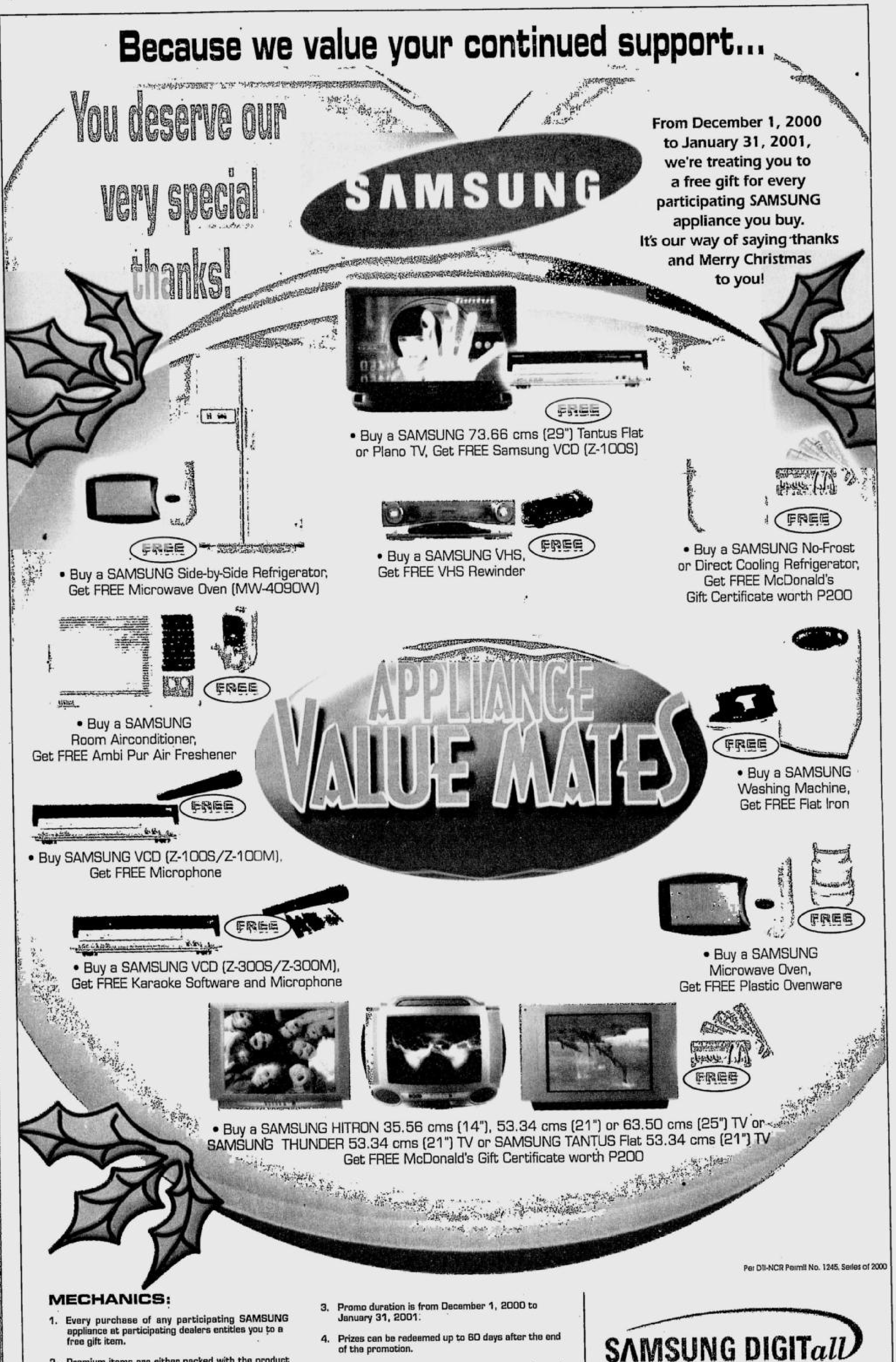
4.5M FACE/ A22

WEINSTEIN PIANOS
THE BEST IN GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
New Year Special!
For only
₱8,000
downpayment
Plus! FREE SONY VCD PLAYER

SS 1
Visit us at:
2F Ali Mall II (Near Cineplex)
Araneta Center, Cubao, Q.C.
Tels. 912-4884 to 86
85
PROMO GOOD UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2001
MAKATI: Tel 678-3509 NOVALICHES: Tels 983-0806/936-7407 ANTIPOLO: Tel 644-8765 BINONDO: Tel 254-8656 CAINTA: Tel 681-7311 LAS PINAS: Tel 861-1337 PASIG: Tel 916-7498 BATANGAS: Tel (043) 756-1037 SAN PEDRO: Tel 808-0048 SAN PABLO: Tel (049) 562-0852 STA. ROSA: Tel (049) 837-6480 CALAMBA: Tel 09195560997 NAGA: Tel 05421-737186/05221-82084 DAGUPAN: Tel (075)522-2106 BAGUIO: (074) 4428264 CEBU: Tel (032) 412-9290 DAVAO: Tel. (082) 227-7761/(082) 62771 CAGAYAN DE ORO: Tel (088) 22712197 BOHOL: Tel. (038) 411-4576 ILIGAN: Tel (063) 221-2015

Wazzzzup?!!

8th day St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr.	DIVAS GREAT DIVIDE	P300 CONSUMABLE 634.7696/634.7698
AudioTorium 23 West Ave., Quezon City	U B F BAND RUBBERBAND	374.2330/373.5574
cafe Overdrive	A' PETITE	FREE ENTRANCE 813.1348/818.5555
Cowboy Grill	STAY TUNED PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill	NON-TOXIC FEEDBACK/BROWNIE	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 4 Remedios St., Malate Mla.	KNIGHTS STREET LIFE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Quezon City	HIMIG THINKERS w/ JOGRAD	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎453.4329
Yale St. cor Aurora, Cubao	D'BOSS FIGURE 8	P50 ENTRANCE FEE ☎913.7202
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	TRUE FAITH EDGE/ARPIE	P250 CONSUMABLE 411.9931/926.1260
Examiner's Lite n'Live #52 Examiner St., Q.C.	CHILLWORKS GLADYS C D BOXERS	P80 ENTRANCE FEE 415.3191/373.7181
Live!	DV 8	P250 CONSUMABLE ☎439.3255
Padi's Point Manila	JIVE THE GRIND	OPEN UNTIL 5:00 A.M. 527.6180/527.6211
Tia Maria's Jupiter St., Makati	PART-E	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎897.7603
Tia Maria's	ENSEMBLES DECADE SOCIETY	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎522.0429
Cowboy Grill Binan, Laguna	SAINTS HOMOSAPIENS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049)511.7268
Partyplace San Fernando, Pampanga	HEAT OF THE NIGHT	BLAKDYAK - JAN. 20 TRUE FAITH - JAN. 27



Because we value your continued support...
You deserve our very special thanks!
SAMSUNG
From December 1, 2000 to January 31, 2001, we're treating you to a free gift for every participating SAMSUNG appliance you buy. It's our way of saying thanks and Merry Christmas to you!
FREE
- Buy a SAMSUNG 73.66 cms (29") Tantus Flat or Plano TV, Get FREE Samsung VCD (Z-100S)
- Buy a SAMSUNG Side-by-Side Refrigerator, Get FREE Microwave Oven (MW-4090W)
- Buy a SAMSUNG VHS, Get FREE VHS Rewinder
- Buy a SAMSUNG No-Frost or Direct Cooling Refrigerator, Get FREE McDonald's Gift Certificate worth P200
- Buy a SAMSUNG Room Airconditioner, Get FREE Ambi Pur Air Freshener
APPLIANCE VALUE MATES
- Buy a SAMSUNG Washing Machine, Get FREE Flat Iron
- Buy SAMSUNG VCD (Z-100S/Z-100M), Get FREE Microphone
- Buy a SAMSUNG VCD (Z-300S/Z-300M), Get FREE Karaoke Software and Microphone
- Buy a SAMSUNG Microwave Oven, Get FREE Plastic Ovenware
- Buy a SAMSUNG HITRON 35.56 cms (14"), 53.34 cms (21") or 63.50 cms (25") TV or SAMSUNG THUNDER 53.34 cms (21") TV or SAMSUNG TANTUS Flat 53.34 cms (21") TV Get FREE McDonald's Gift Certificate worth P200
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1245, Series of 2000
MECHANICS:
1. Every purchase of any participating SAMSUNG appliance at participating dealers entitles you to a free gift item.
2. Premium items are either packed with the product or can be claimed from the SAMSUNG promoter from the store where the purchase was made or directly from the SAMSUNG head office located at 1535 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila P.O. Box 778.
3. Promo duration is from December 1, 2000 to January 31, 2001.
4. Prizes can be redeemed up to 60 days after the end of the promotion.
5. To claim the prize, winner must present receipt and warranty to the SAMSUNG dealer/promoter/office.
6. The gift cheque prize shall be valid for one year.
SAMSUNG DIGITall
everyone's invited™

Shattered and shamed

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(GAB & BAP: Rey Bancod noted in his column in Tempo yesterday how happy Lito Puyat was over the classification made by the government on the Philippine Basketball League. Puyat, according to Bancod, clapped his hands after the Games and Amusements Board, a supervisory agency directly under the Office of the President, declared the PBL a professional basketball league. Bancod likewise wondered why the virtual demise of the country's top amateur cage league has brought so much gladness to Puyat, a top official of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, when, in fact, the PBL has made great contributions to the development of amateur basketball in the country. It was obvious the PBL did not want to be contaminated by a rotten system, that's why the league has refused to be under the BAP, suggested Dodo Catacutan of Bulletin Today. What cage league in its right mind would want to have anything to do with chaotic leadership and priorities gone astray, Catacutan asked.)

* * *

SUDDENLY, his wife and handlers were telling a totally different story about Luisito Espinosa.

They said the two-time world boxing champ trained hard and was, in fact, feeling good before he was fed to Augie Sanchez, a fast-rising knockout artist, in Texas on Sunday.

Remember that Luisito late last year had initially refused the offer to slug it out with Sanchez in early January.

He claimed he was not ready, meaning he was not in peak form, to take the tough assignment. As first reported by Nick Giongco of Today, a very reliable fight chronicler, the fight had been shelved.

But they needed the money, a later report emanating from California next quoted Luisito's wife, Maricherie, as explaining.

So, when it was next reported that the Sanchez-Espinosa would, after all, push through this January, I just shook my head.

I knew Luisito would be beaten. But I prayed that he would not end up shattered and shamed.

* * *

As the ringside story goes, it was all too late before Luisito realized he could not move.

He said he felt heavy.

His trainer, his wife, his manager, were one in saying Luisito was very surprised to suddenly find all his power gone.

His legs were gone.

Of course, Luisito knew deep within that he needed more than strong will and an urgent need for cash if he had to prevail over his strong, talented foes.

Espinosa, no matter what his handlers say, was clearly not ready for the assignment.

But the poor guy had no choice.

* * *

It was too late when Luisito realized Sanchez was a hungry lion waiting to chew him up.

Funny but Luisito would later say he did not know Sanchez, a vaunted knockout artist, could hit so hard.

Sanchez, for his part, played it generously.

He said that, if he had fought Espinosa a few years back, he would have been on the losing end instead.

Of course, Sanchez was also trying to be extra nice.

He himself never thought Espinosa would be a picnic.

* * *

As most Pinoy fans know by now, Espinosa, after falling in the third, was stopped in the fourth round.

Correction. The referee, Joe Cortez, actually stopped the bout.

A ringside account said Luisito would've suffered serious damage if he didn't drop to one knee and signal surrender to the referee.

The same report claimed Luisito's manager did not want it to happen. She reportedly tried to convince Espinosa to back out. But Espinosa was supposed to have asked for one more chance.

The trainer, Robert Arguallo, said it was destiny.

Nothing was, however, heard from the fighter's wife, Maricherie, who's expected to share in the measly $15,000 purse.

* * *

I suspect Luisito did it against his will.

It was a cheap, silly gamble the two-time world champ had to make.

It was not worth it. The whole nation, which had taken pride in Espinosa, also suffered and mourned the humiliation.

Only a very desperate former world champ would enter the ring unprepared all because he needed the purse.

Maybe Maricherie also whispered the magic words "Naseem Hamed" to Luisito's ear when he tried to tarry?

* * *

Well, if it's any consolation, the legendary Toti Sangalang, Espinosa's original trainer, was no longer around to rue Luisito's fall. Sangalang, 66, passed away on Jan. 2.

Hermie Rivera, Espinosa's first manager who made him world bantamweight champion in 1989, was however in California where he witnessed the four-round execution on television.

Hermie, naturally, ended up in grief. Although he no longer shed that quiet tear as he did years back when Luisito's trainer-father, Dio, told him how Espinosa was driven out of their home in Singalong.

Pinalayas, Hermie explained. It was normal for husband and wife to quarrel every now and then.

But Hermie said he could not believe that Luisito, whom he had owned like a son, was kicked out and allegedly made to walk penniless all the way from Singalong to Novaliches where his relatives live, after a household misunderstanding.

Yes, Luisito will do anything for the love of his family.

Let's just hope his wife doesn't order him into the ring once she feels the pinch.

Luisito must stay where he still has his senses.

Erap supporters 'assault' Makati

By Alcuin Papa

ABOUT 2,000 supporters OF President Estrada, mostly from the urban poor, yesterday afternoon held a rally in Makati City.

The organizers—the People's Movement Against Poverty and the Katipunan ng Sambayanan, umbrella organizations of pro-Estrada urban poor, peasant and fisherfolk groups from rural areas—said the rally was meant as a "historic assault" on the city that is home to many of the country's richest.

The ralliers marched to the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, the site of recent anti-Estrada rallies.

The ralliers shouted pro-Estrada slogans and carried placards screaming their support for Estrada, and effigies representing the Makati Business Club. Ati-atihan dancers and marching bands preceded the marchers.

At about 12:30 p.m., they started a short program under the gaze of the statue of former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Conspicuous was the absence of Makati office workers, who in the past joined anti-Estrada rallies. Also absent was the confetti that usually rained down from the Ayala office buildings during anti-government rallies.

PMAP president Ronald Lumbao told the crowd that if Ninoy were alive today, he would disagree with how the masses have been "maltreated."

He appealed to the district's office workers and businessmen to listen to "the voice of the majority and not just to the slogans of the few."

Other speakers included Edicio de la Torre, Robert Padilla of the Labor Reform Bloc, Adel Antonino of Kasambayan, Ronaldo Coronado of the Urban Poor Solidarity Against Poverty and Arnel Viray of the Katipunan ng mga Maliliit na Mangingingisda sa Manila Bay.

Satur charged with beating Senate driver

POLICE filed criminal charges against former National Democratic Front spokesperson Satur Ocampo and other leaders of militant organizations before the Pasay City prosecutor's office for the alleged beating of a Senate bus driver on Monday.

The charges were filed after driver Mohamil Adam lodged grave coercion and physical injury complaints against the protesters.

Adam, who sustained minor injuries, was taken to the hospital after he was allegedly beaten up by members of militant organizations during a vigil in front of the Senate building.

Police said Adam was driving a Senate shuttle bus on Monday afternoon and tried to enter the Senate compound but was prevented because of the presence of demonstrators.

Adam honked his horn, which enraged the protesters who then attacked Adam, said Senior Insp. Reynaldo Baral, Pasay City police chief investigator.

Although Ocampo was not present during the incident, he was still identified as one of the leaders of the demonstrators who beat up Adam and who must be held accountable for the action of his members, Inspector Baral said.

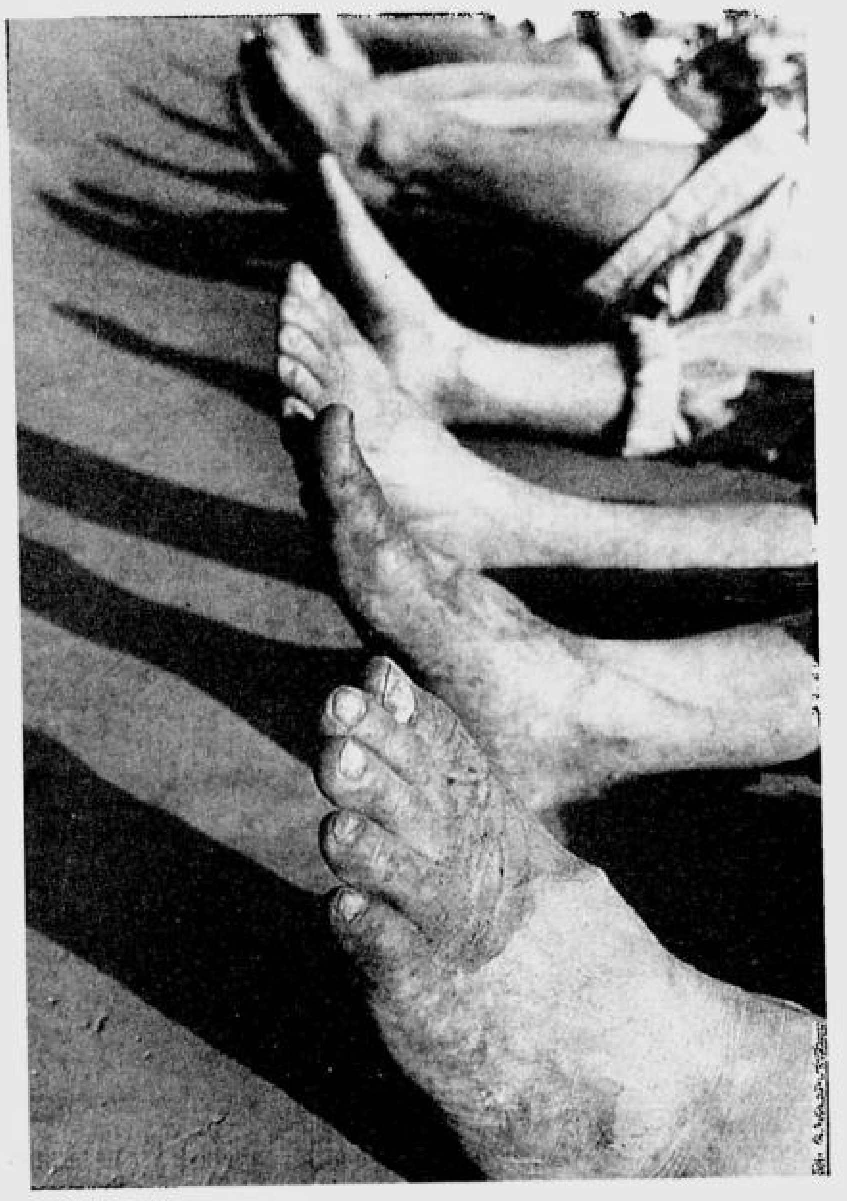
Police also filed charges against Bayan Muna party list secretary general Nathaniel Santiago, Kilusang Mayo Uno chair Crispin Beltran, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teddy Casiño, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano and Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytors Nationwide chair Medardo Roda.

But Santiago said Adam was mauled after he tried to stab Casiño with an ice pick when the latter tried to convince the driver to move the bus away from the protesters.

"The people saw how he tried to stab Teddy (Casiño)," Santiago told reporters. "That's how it happened."

Santiago said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel's suggestion to ban rallies in front of the Senate building is "unconstitutional."

Nelson Flores



FEET OF THE FAITHFUL

Men rest their tired feet—muddy, cracked, pedicured, splayed, fair, dark—after taking part barefooted in the hot, crowded Jan. 9 Feast of the Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo, Manila. JOAN BONDOC

Edu bares pressure from Makati council

MAKATI Vice Mayor Eduardo Manzano yesterday accused city councilors of pressuring him into signing questionable ordinances still pending in his office.

Manzano said the city council recently passed a resolution urging him to sign several ordinances within 10 days.

He said the councilors cited possible adverse effects on Makati residents if the ordinances were not signed.

Manzano, who is also a movie actor, said that among the ordinances the council wants him to sign immediately are the city zoning ordinance and the debt-servicing ordinance.

He said that under the Local Government Code, the vice mayor has the power to review and study all ordinances before endorsing them to the mayor for implementation. The mayor cannot implement the ordinance without his endorsement, he pointed out.

"Under the provisions of the LGC, the vice mayor can withhold his endorsement until after he has studied the ordinance," Manzano said.

"There is no law compelling the vice mayor to endorse every ordinance being passed by the local legislature," especially when the measure would adversely affect the people, he said.

Nelson F. Flores

Man accused of raping 2 little daughters

A CONSTRUCTION worker is facing rape charges before the Malabon prosecutor's office after his two daughters, aged 5 and 2, accused him of raping them on several occasions in their home in Malabon.

Police said the 32-year-old suspect raped his daughters whenever he was under the influence of illegal drugs.

Accompanied by their grandmother, the little girls went to the Malabon police headquarters on Tuesday to file a rape complaint against their father.

They told investigators he raped them repeatedly whenever their mother was away. The mother is also a suspected drug user, police said.

Investigation showed that on Jan. 5 the girls were alone in their house when their father, believed to be high on shabu, sneaked into their room and sexually abused them.

After raping them, the man fell asleep and the girls went to their grandmother's house, police said.

The suspect is now detained at the Malabon police headquarters.

Christian V. Esguerra

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, January 12, 2001
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Heb 4:1-5, 11**
Gospel: **Mk 2:1-12**

Jesus returned to Capernaum. As the news spread that he was at home, so many people gathered that there was no longer room even outside the door. While Jesus was preaching the Word to them, some people brought a paralyzed man to him.

The four men who carried him couldn't get near Jesus because of the crowd, so they opened the roof above the room where Jesus was and, through the hole, lowered the man on his mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

Now, some teachers of the Law who were sitting there wondered within themselves, "How can he speak like this insulting God? Who can forgive sins except God?"

At once Jesus knew through his spirit what they were thinking and asked, "Why do you wonder? Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say: 'Rise, take up your mat and walk?' But now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

And he said to the paralytic, "Stand up, take up your mat and go home." The man rose and, in the sight of all those people, he took up his mat and went out. All of them were astonished and praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Commentary:

We slept on mats ourselves as children. Rolling our mats and folding our mosquito nets meant waking up, starting our day, moving on. Jesus must have meant exactly that for the paralytic of Capernaum when he said "Stand up, pick up your mat and walk." It was his way of saying, move on with your life, man. There are many different reasons people get stuck in their mats. Guilt is one of them. Guilt over past failures and misdeeds can get some people so bogged down they stop working, they stop striving, they start turning into a liability even for their families they need to be carried around. Jesus knew that forgiveness is what people often need to get them to rise from their mats of paralysis and move on with their lives.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: BILL OF RIGHTS)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Plain view doctrine—For the plain view doctrine to apply, the following elements must be present: (a) a prior valid intrusion based on the valid warrantless arrest in which the police are legally present in the pursuit of their official duties; (b) the evidence was inadvertently discovered by the police who have the right to be where they are; and (c) the evidence must be immediately apparent; and (d) plain view justified mere seizure of evidence without further search. The seizure of evidence in "plain view" applies only where the police officer is not searching for evidence against the accused, but inadvertently comes across an incriminating object. In the case at bar, we note the testimony of the police officer that upon arriving at the area, they first had to "look around the area" before they could spot the illegal plants. Patently, the seized marijuana plants were not "immediately apparent" and a "further search" was needed. In sum, the marijuana plants in question were not in "plain view" or "open to eye and hand." The "plain view" doctrine, thus, cannot be made to apply. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Valdez, G.R. No. 129296, September 25, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Man shot dead on Quezon City overpass

STUDENTS of the Diliman Preparatory School on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City saw a ghastly sight yesterday after a man was shot dead about noon on the overpass in front of the school.

Grade school students covered their mouths with handkerchiefs as they passed the bloody corpse of Nasser B. Adal, 35, of IBP Road, Purok 9 in Barangay Commonwealth.

Adal's body, which had two gunshot wounds in the chest, was left on the Nissan overpass, said investigator SPO1 Efren Sobrepena.

Witness Charlie Bayron, 23, a barangay official, said Adal and an unidentified man were talking before Adal was shot about 11:50 a.m.

"They came up the overpass together on the southbound lane of Commonwealth (Avenue) and were talking before the man shot him," said Bayron, who was at one end of the overpass.

He said the other man pulled out a gun and shot Adal. Bayron said he did not notice any fight between the two before the gunman fired two shots at Adal.

Despite the gunshot wounds, Adal was able to run a few meters toward the other end of the overpass, Bayron said.

Adal was heard crying "It hurts!" as he ran toward Bayron.

The gunman was about to go after Adal but saw Bayron on the other end of the overpass, the witness said.

Bayron said the gunman then quickly went down the overpass to the southbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue where he boarded a bus.

Police said a double cross involving a drug deal could have led to Adal's killing. *Philip C. Tubeza*

4.5M face waterless days if MWSS . . .

(From page A 21)

exchange rate adjustment (Cera) and a temporary increase in the basic water rates, Maynilad hopes to recover its losses so it can fund its capital investment projects and continue to provide water to the west zone.

Optimistic

Still, Alunan is optimistic that the Maynilad petition will be granted. "What I'm only worried about is the time that it would take MWSS to approve our petition," he said.

The worst-case scenario if the Cera petition is rejected, according to Alunan, is for Maynilad to return the concession to the MWSS.

He said Maynilad's petition has been endorsed by 76 congressmen, the mayors of Quezon City and Manila, and others, including Sister Christine Tan of the Alay Kapwa Christian Community in Leveriza, Manila.

In endorsing the petition, Sister Christine, who has been living among the poor in Leveriza for 21 years, noted that "for so many years before Maynilad took over, our experience with water service (was) pitiful, if not tragic."

"Water came in drops," she wrote. "I would literally wait for an hour or more before a small pail was filled with water. Many times, there would be no water at all, with no warning. Sometimes, this situation would last for three days."

She said that now that Maynilad has taken over, "water runs from our faucets 24 hours a day."

P26.30

Alunan said that three years after the government privatized the operations of the MWSS, Maynilad has incurred concession fee losses of P2.2 billion.

He said Maynilad earmarked a $4.5-billion (P225 billion) investment for the 25-year concession period for the west zone.

Of the P225 billion, 20 percent or P45 billion is meant for water service delivery and non-revenue water distribution, while 80 percent or P180 billion is for sewerage and sanitation services.

"When we made our bid, the exchange rate was only P26.30 to a dollar," Alunan explained. "But because of the steep fall of the peso (P51.45 as of yesterday afternoon), we paid out a total P6.7 billion.

"That means we shelled out P2.2 billion more than we expected in 1997."

Lender confidence

He said the rate adjustment would allow Maynilad to recover automatically any losses resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations exceeding two percent, without having to petition the MWSS.

"A Cera is allowed under our concession agreement but this is not automatic," he said. "If we get automatic Cera, there will be lender confidence which will mean that our capital investment projects will go on as planned."

He pointed out that despite the crippling effect of the peso devaluation, Maynilad was able to improve the availability of water supply in the west zone.

He said 75 percent—or 4.3 million people—of Maynilad customers now enjoy 24-hour, seven-day-a-week water supply.

This means continuous supply to portions of Quezon City, Navotas, Makati, Valenzuela, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Malabon, lower Caloocan, most parts of Manila and Pasay, and Bacoor, Cavite.

In August 1997, only 58 percent of the west zone had water 24 hours, seven days a week.

It was in August 1997 when Maynilad won the exclusive right to take over the MWSS operations in the west zone of Metro Manila for 25 years.

The other concessionaire, Manila Water Company Inc., won the right to operate the east zone.

Baby Frankie introduced to mom Sharon's fans

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SHARON Cuneta said that she was having "only a simple and intimate "birthday celebration on her TV show on Sunday, and proceeded to introduce her first guests—**Gary Valenciano** and **Martin Nievera**. How "simple and intimate" can you get?

Other guests included **Edu Manzano, Cherie Gil, Jaya** and Side A, but most of the people invited to the birthday bash were Sharon and Kiko Pangilinan's relatives.

After they did their song, Gary and Martin hosted portions of the show in an engaging manner. They do work well together.

Edu also did his share of hosting, reminding everyone how good he is at this sort of thing. Why doesn't some channel give him a new talk-variety show? He can talk circles around many of the hosts we have on the tube today.

The highlight of the evening was the "unveiling" of Sharon and Kiko's new baby, **Frankie**, who was carried in by her doting ate, **KC** (who by the way is looking practically grown-up these days).

The baby is big for her tender age, prompting Edu to crack that the weeks-old infant could actually be three years old! Both Sharon and Kiko think the world of her, as well they should, because they had to put up with so much before they were finally gifted with her. Fine, we understand, but don't spoil her rotten, okay?

Sharon intimated that she's pretty much concentrating on Frankie and her TV show these days, but she'll soon be going on a diet so she will look good when she shoots her new film starting this May.

She should also lose more weight when she starts campaigning soon for Kiko, who's running for senator in this year's elections. People admire Kiko for his own abilities, but let's face it, when you're running for a national post like senator, having Sharon Cuneta for your wife sure does help.

TV treats

EVERY Monday at 9 p.m. this month, the National Geographic Channel presents "Adventure One—Ben Dark." On Jan. 15, follow adventurer **Ben Dark** as he retraces the journey of **Ludwig Leichardt** through Australia's Northern Territory, around the Gulf and down the western edge of Queensland's Great Dividing Range. Leichhardt mysteriously disappeared into Australia's rugged outback in the course of the famous explorer and naturalist's last research expodition in 1843.

The four-episode series wraps up on Jan. 22 with "A Breed of Their Own." Ben Dark uses explorers' original journals and old photographs to reconstruct the most daring journeys through some desolate yet beautiful parts of Australia.

Finally, at 9 tonight on the National Geographic Channel, host **Alan Alda** goes to the outer limits of science and technology in the sports arena in "Science of Sports."

An engineer who has lost his legs in a mountain-climbing accident uses bow and arrow technology to help disabled and able-bodied people attain their highest potential. His technology may help runners beat world records, and the rest of us run faster than ever before.

Next, baseball players take batting practice to the lab, and mountaineers find that they may be able to predict high-altitude sickness before they start climbing.

Finally, Alda joins sailors as they strive to overtake wind surfers in quest of greater speed.

Quote, unquote

GERALD Brenan: People would like to love themselves, but they usually, find that they can't. This is because they have created an ideal image of themselves which puts their real self in the shade.

Lenny Bruce: The "what should be" never did exist, but people keep trying to live up to it. There is no "what should be," there is only what is.

James Russell Lowell: The true ideal is not opposed to the real, but lies in it – and blessed are the eyes that find it!

NEW SEIKO MOVIE GETS 'X' RATING

Fil-American beauty Brigitte de Joya topbills Seiko Films' latest movie, "Kangkong," where she figures in sizzling love scenes with male lead Rodel Velayo, prompting the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to give the movie an X-rating on its initial review. "Kangkong" is directed by Mauro Gia Samonte, with Eugene Asis as assistant director. Also starring are Sofia Valdez, Paula Gomez, Odette Khan and director Maning Borlaza.

Boy Abunda to run for congressman, with or without his mirror

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

BOY Abunda for congressman.

Don't look now, but the loquacious TV talk show host is setting his sights on politics. Not in the May election, though, but three years from now.

Boy is said to be running for congressman in his native Samar in the 2004 elections.

A source close to the garrulous Waray, who has interviewed many politicians and other celebrities, quotes Boy as saying, apparently tongue in cheek, "I've run out of questions to ask celebrities so I'm going to Congress to question other people."

"If ever, he'll be the first openly gay congressman," said **Kris Aquino**, Boy's cohost in ABS-CBN's Sunday show biz show, "The Buzz."

Boy's plan to brighten up Congress with his wit is said to have been prompted by his own family, who told the famous talent manager, publicist, concert producer and TV host that he should also try and be a politician.

According to the source, Boy is even planning to take up courses in public administration to prepare him for the lawmaking job.

The irrepressible fashion plate that is Boy won't be the first politician in the family. His mother **Licerna Abunda** has been the No. 1 councilor of Borongan, Eastern Samar, for two terms now. She is running for a third and last term.

Mrs. Abunda herself likes to say she was a grade school teacher for "42 years, 11 months and 2 days."

Kris herself is said to be thinking about a career in politics—but at least 10 years from now.

Kris' mom, former President **Cory Aquino**, has been urging her youngest daughter to take up law, which should equip Kris for a political career.

Witnesses in hiding

JUST when you think broadcast journalists have done all possible stories about the impeachment trial, GMA news and public affairs came up with a different feature Monday night on "I-Witness."

Veering away from the august halls of the Senate, the program took viewers to the safehouses of state witnesses, including Ilocos Sur Gov. **Luis "Chavit" Singson**.

"I-Witness" host **Vicky Morales** interviewed the witnesses in different locations and tried to show how the witnesses cope with life in hiding, following their valiant act of testifying against the President.

Vicky made the feature more interesting by "living" like a witness herself. She was shown eating with Singson, playing cards with him and his bodyguards, and even spending the night in the safehouse.

Singson said he hasn't been going home to Ilocos Sur lately and has to content himself with occasional visits from his loved ones.

Vicky also interviewed the courageous women who also blew the whistle on President Estrada. **Emma Lim** and **Carmencita "Menchu" Itchon**, both mothers, lamented how they have to be separated from their families, especially during the holidays.

In tears, Lim said her daughter had to stop going to school and her husband had to stop going to his clinic because he started getting death threats after her testimony. Lim said she lost 15 pounds after her Senate testimony.

The opposite happened to Itchon, who said she turned to eating every time she missed her family. She said she gained weight after she started living away from them.

Another witness, bank employee **Shakira Yu**, 31, appears to enjoy her "15 minutes" of fame.

"My picture landed on the front pages of three major dailies the next day," she said. "It's not every day that it happens to you. My friend said I was given my 15 minutes of fame, but mine was longer because it extended to the next day."

She said she had to miss the wedding of her sister, but she did make it to the reception where she was treated like a celebrity by her relatives.

She said she had to get used to moving around with a bodyguard, courtesy of the bank. The good-looking young woman also said a talent manager wanted to get her for a TV commercial.

Clarissa Ocampo of Equitable-PCIBank, however, refused to face the cameras, on the advice of her lawyers. Morales and her "I-Witness" production staff waited five hours to get an interview with her, but they waited in vain. After a closed-door meeting with bank executives, Ocampo refused to be interviewed; she merely chatted with Morales while the camera stayed at a distance.

All the witnesses are one in saying they don't regret having testified.

"I-Witness" presented an episode that is timely and interesting. Such effort of the network's news and public affairs team makes its programs consistent top-raters.

According to ACNielsen's Manila ratings, GMA's late-night programs rule in their time slots. "I-Witness" registered a 39 percent audience share on Mondays. And "FrontPage" wins the late-night news war. Its previous rival, "Pulso" of ABS-CBN, has gone off the air.

So if you think you've had enough of the impeachment trial, trust GMA to come out with out-of-ordinary news features which can keep viewers glued to their TV sets, no matter how jaded they are to the "juetengate" controversy.

Be a boy group member

AUDITIONS for an all-male harmony pop group will be held at 6 p.m. today at Showmaster Management and Public Relations, Room 105 Pangilinan Bldg., No. 97 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City.

ABUNDA says he has "run out of questions."

Interested singers should bring their resumé with recent photos and minus-one cassette tapes for the live audition. For inquiries, call 0917-890-44-70 or 0917-932-20-40.

Joey-FM holds bar tours, movie premiere this month

JOEY@Rhythms 92.3 FM jumpstarts the new year with an exciting bar tour and the premiere of a feel-good movie.

Joey fills the air with romance as "Joey's Rhythm of Love" happens every Tuesday at Suburbia in Malate (Jan. 16, 23 and 30), 9:30 p.m.

The red-hot pre-Valentine bar tour takes audiences to a musical journey on the road of romance via the soothing voices of Bituin Escalante and Calvin Millado, who will be backed up by Acoustic Jive.

Joey gives you a different kind of love story with the premiere of "Bounce," Jan. 30 at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV, 7:30 p.m.

Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow plays Abby Janello, the young widow of a plane crash victim who is swept off her feet by Buddy Arnaral (Ben Affleck), a successful advertising executive. When Buddy reveals that he once gave up his seat on a plane that later crashed, the two realize they have a deeper connection.

These are just a sample of Joey's hot line-up this year. Watch out for more of the hippest bar tours, blockbuster premieres, coolest concerts and free trips in the coming months. Tune in to Joey@Rhythms 92.3 FM.

'RHYTHM OF LOVE'

Calvin Millado opens the year with a bang as he takes centerstage at Suburbia in Malate for "Rhythm of Love," with the Acoustic Jive and Bituin Escalante, Jan. 16, 23 and 30. Calvin will perform choice ditties with Bituin like "Cruisin," "Baby Come To Me," "Magkasuyo Buong Gabi," "Whenever I Call You Friend" and more. After the concert series, Calvin will reprise his role as Roger for the Singapore production of the hit musical, "Rent." For inquiries and bookings, call Backroom at 435-1120 or 435-1108.

"Now, I want everything to last."

The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.

Eurotiles, the tough ceramic tiles, last for a very long time. With over 400 beautiful designs to suit every home, each tile is made using superior European technology for durability and strength.

"Good as forever." Take it from Kris.

EUROTILES
SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
Styled to last.

Eurotiles Industrial Corporation Diplomat Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel 551-1077 Fax 832-3079

SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173888

1	DOLBY SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TANGING YAMAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CENTERPOINT 7148522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	DTS	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	KANGKONG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GATAS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	DEATH ROW
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	LEGEND OF BAGGER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	MEET THE PARENTS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
4	DTS	ART MOVIE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER
7	DTS	DEATH ROW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SP[IRIT WARRIORS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
9	ULTRA SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
10	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CRACKER JACK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EX-CON
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOYS & GIRLS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
2	ULTRA SURROUND	EX- CON
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BLAIR WITCH 2
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGO NG TONDO
8	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	LETS & GO TAMIYA
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	KANGKONG

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 4

1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE 6TH DAY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Phil. Premiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	TANGING YAMAN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	MEET THE PARENTS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	MEET THE PARENTS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE 6TH DAY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MEET THE PARENTS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BALAHIBONG PUSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE 6TH DAY
2 (SDDS)	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
3 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4 GOLD (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TANGING YAMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SPIRIT WARRIORS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	LETS GO TAMIYA
8 [illegible]	KANGKONG
9 [illegible]	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10 [illegible]	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	GATAS
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	KANGKONG
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
2 (DTS)	DEATH ROW
3	MEET THE PARENTS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	GATAS
3	KANGKONG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	GATAS
3	KANGKONG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
5	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	KANGKONG
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	TANGING YAMAN
5	BALAHIBONG PUSA
6	THE 6TH DAY
7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
8	LETS GO TAMIYA

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	TATLONG PUSO ISANG PANGARAP
2	HOT SPOT
3	LABAN KUNG LABAN
4	
5	WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR ONLY P30.00
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR ONLY ₱30.00
2	ARMOUR OF GOD
3	FIRST STRIKE
4	WHO AM I (Jacky Chan Festival)

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	PING LACSON STORY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	KANGKONG
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	THE 6TH DAY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
A	KANGKONG

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	GATAS
3	KANGKONG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	GATAS
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	LETS GO TAMIYA
5	TANGING YAMAN
6	KANGKONG
7 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
8 (SDDS)	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
9 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4	LETS GO TAMIYA
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4 (SDDS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	KANGKONG
6 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
7 (DTS)	LETS GO TAMIYA
8	PING LACSON STORY
9	GATAS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	LETS GO TAMIYA
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7 (DOLBY)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
8	KANGKONG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
2	TANGING YAMAN
3 (DTS)	LETS GO TAMIYA
4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
6 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7 (DOLBY)	KANGKONG

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

HOT SPOT

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KANGKONG
2	BALAHIBONG PUSO
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	THE 6TH DAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	KANGKONG

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	THE 6TH DAY
5	PING LACSON STORY
6	LETS GO TAMIYA

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	THE 6TH DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
4	KANGKONG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
2	LETS GO TAMIYA
3	KANGKONG
4 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	KANGKONG
4	CRACKER JACK
5	GATAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	TANGING YAMAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	GATAS
3	TANGING YAMAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	THE [illegible]
3	GATAS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	DEATH ROW
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	TANGING YAMAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4	GATAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	KANGKONG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	BALAHIONG PUSA
3	THE 6TH DAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GATAS
3	UNBREAKABLE
4	THE 6TH DAY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	THE 6TH DAY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE 6TH DAY
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 (DTS EX)	MEET THE PARENTS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001
FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

FOR INQUIRIES
PLS. CALL
734-5012

a special presentation

Campus Radio premieres 'Remember the Titans'

CAMPUS Radio 97.1 dwLS-FM in cooperation with Channel [V] Philippines presents an advance screening of "Remember the Titans," starring Denzel Washington, 8 tonight at Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 1.

"Remember The Titans" tells the true story of Herman Boone (Washington), an African-American football coach who led a racially divided high school team, the Titans, to victory in 1971 at Alexandria, Virginia.

Boone overcame racial prejudice and bigotry within his own team and other coaches, teaching players respect, dedication, and strength. By doing so, he became a huge inspiration and role model to the team, and made an impact on the small, prejudice-driven southern community.

The advance screening is also made possible by Cloud 9, Piattos, Solmux, Magic Flakes, Nescafé and Safeguard.

Dutch DJ in Manila

DJ Jurgen of Netherlands, the man behind last year's hit dance singles "Better Off Alone" and "Higher and Higher," is in the country for two dance parties—tonight at Phenomena on Timog Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City, and tomorrow night, Saturday, at Fuel in Cebu City.

Jurgen (Jurgen Rijkers), 33, was born in Delft (near the Hague) in 1967. He started his career as a disc jockey in 1987 on radio Stad Den Haag. He then moved on to Radio Veronica, one of Holland's largest national radio stations at that time.

His name became known all over Holland when house music became popular. Jurgen moved along with this new style of music into the club scene. Since then, Jurgen has developed his own style which he describes as "strong grooving techno-trance."

Besides his residencies like the Hour Power at Escape in Amsterdam and Club Asta at The Hague, DJ Jurgen guests at various clubs and parties all over Europe.

In 1995, he started producing his own music and released his first record in 1996 on the Colors label. He just recently mixed his own compilation CD, "DJ Jurgen," which spawned the worldwide hit "Better Off Alone," featuring vocals by Alice Deejay.

The DJ Jurgen party in Manila is a first-time production of Crave4 Raves and is also supported by Phenomena, Radius International, localvibe.com and NU 107.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail:htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA
536-7809-14

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. BALAHIBONG PUSA
4. KANGKONG
5. GATAS
6. PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
7. MEET THE PARENTS

GALLERIA

UNDER RENOVATION

Robinsons Movieworld aims to bring
a new dimension to your viewing experience
10 brand new cinemas equipped with
THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL soundsystem

IMUS
(046)875-3838

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. GATAS
3. TANGING YAMAN
4. PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5. KANGKONG
6. BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD
(034)441-0463

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. BLAIR WITCH 2
4. DEATH ROW
5. MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
6. SUGATANG PUSO

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	KANGKONG
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BALAHIBONG PUSA
MIRAMAR	KANGKONG
ODEON	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ODEON-2	THE 6TH DAY
ROBEN	KANGKONG
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA
ACT-2	ARAYY
ACT-3	HIRAM NA KATAWAN
ACT-4	BIRADOR
CORONET-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
QUEZON-1	KANGKONG
REMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA
REMAR-2	KANGKONG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-3	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-8	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-12	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	THE 6TH DAY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-2	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-4	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-6	MEET THE PARENTS

LOUIE'S CINEMA

THX It Will Change The Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

NOW SHOWING

MEET THE PARENTS

(PG-13)
Comedy-Romance-Drama
Starring:
Robert De Niro
Ben Stiller
Teri Polo
Blythe Danner
Owen Wilson

January 12 - Friday

6:15 PM - Meet The Parents
8:45 PM - Meet The Parents
11:15 PM - Meet The Parents

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula. A Journal of Philippine Cinema and Learn more about Comedy King DOLPHY and other Filipino artists, Movie fans & Idols. Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication

LRP Foundation Inc. Louie's THX Cinema Bldg., Mile Long Compound Amorsolo St., Makati City Tel No 751-20-10 Fax 892-33-49
www.louiesthx.com.ph

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

My mom doesn't have ₱400 million

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I HAVE just finished reading two books by **Candace Bushnell**—"Sex and the City," on which the hit HBO series starring my favorite **Sarah Jessica Parker** is based, and her latest, "Four Blondes," a compilation of four short stories on, yes, four blondes in different stages of their lives.

Bushnell's writing is very Cosmopolitan magazine, you-go-girl style. She's witty, intuitive, and a lot of fun. I got my books from Page One in Hong Kong. I hope they're available locally.

I'm reading **Jeffrey Archer**'s latest short story compilation, "To Cut a Long Short Story." Archer is responsible for some of my favorite novels, namely, "Kane and Abel," "Shall We Tell the President," "Prodigal Daughter," "First Among Equals," and "The Fourth Estate."

His latest collection is thought-provoking reading. In just a few pages, each story really comes alive. "Love at First Sight" is heartwarming, "Too Many Coincidences" is freaky, and "The Grass is Always Greener" is philosophical.

I know many people who aren't fond of reading. If you're like them and if your New Year's resolutions include a promise to start reading, this book is a perfect way to start. The stories aren't too long, the endings are unexpected, and the characterizations are really interesting.

* * *

I saw "6th Day" on Sunday. If you recall, this was the movie **Arnold Schwarzenneger** was promoting when I was scheduled to interview him in November. The big storm on Nov. 3 and the rally on the 4th prevented me from having my 10 minutes with Arnold in Los Angeles.

The movie did poorly in the United States, but in Megamall the theater showing it was jampacked, and it was already the last full show. The crowd was mixed, mostly couples, and very involved in what was being played out on screen.

I enjoyed the movie. The script delves into the extreme possibilities of cloning. Now it's vegetables and animals, soon it will be human organs, and not far off it could ultimately be human beings.

"6th Day" is an imaginative, big-bang action movie. Arnold, despite the added wrinkles, is at his charming best. The attempts at humor were well appreciated by the Megamall audience.

Watch it, for some thrills, some laughs, and some fun.

As an aside, Megamall has very good air conditioning, the seats are comfortable enough, the sound is clear, and the screen's picture quality, considering the fact that it's so huge, is good.

But the floors—I know this seems like an oxymoron—are so sticky and also very slippery! The stairs in the Premiere section aren't very well lit.

Granted, this is a major concern for me because I'm so *lampa* and often take tumbles down the steps, but the steps should have those running floor lights. A Premiere ticket already costs P80!

I really hope SM will follow the lead of Robinson's Galleria and renovate and upgrade their cinemas.

Galleria's Cinemas, according to the movie sections of the papers, will re-open in time for summer. Good news for us Quezon City residents who won't have to trek all the way to Makati each time we want to watch a movie in Digital Surround and to sit for two hours in a comfortable setting.

* * *

Boy Abunda and I opened "The Buzz" on Sunday by reading on air an e-mail that has been going around regarding "the truth" about my relationship with **JV Ejercito**.

It was hysterical in the sense that it had so many details that anybody reading it would be inclined to believe even some of it.

To summarize the contents of the e-mail: JV and I are supposed to be genuinely in love, but my mom threatened to disinherit me if I pursued our relationship. JV offered me—take note—P400 million to make up for whatever I would lose from my mom. I turned his offer down, after doing some soul-searching in Tagaytay with Boy Abunda.

Dinaig pa namin ang telenovela!

JV and I are still friends—not best friends, not even close friends, but friends nonetheless. In fact, we've avoided seeing each other to simplify our lives.

Secondly, my mom has never threatened to disinherit me, and she doesn't have P400 million! In fact, I hope people can come up with something new. This business of "disinheriting" was already an issue when **Phillip (Salvador)** and I parted ways two years ago.

The last time I was in Tagaytay was to attend the wedding of one my closest friends, **Gia**, way back in May 2000.

Lastly, Boy said if there was an offer of that much money, he would have told me to go for it—as long as he got his 30 percent manager's cut.

Seriously though, if I were really in love—and basing it from my past experience—my personality is such that I would be willing to risk it all.

Forgive me for quoting a "Backstreet Boys" song, but my concept of love goes a little like this: "I don't care who you are, where you're from, what you did, as long as you have me."

This e-mail puts JV in such an unfair light. He doesn't need to bribe a girl to like or love him. It is also unfair to my mom because she has never threatened me about money at any time in my entire life. Those were never the values she espoused while bringing me up.

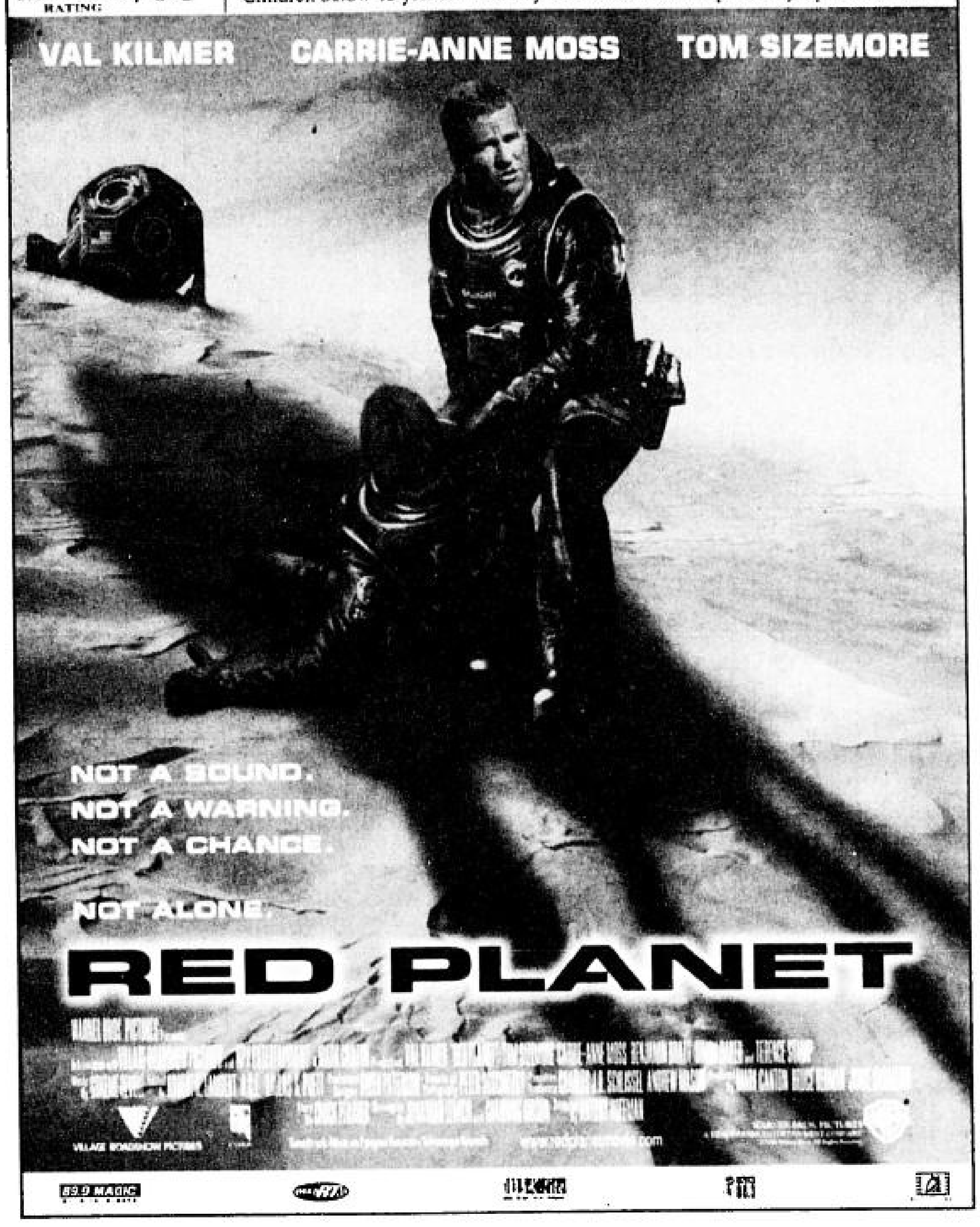
My friend (Manila Councilor) **Kim Atienza** asked me the other day how my love life was (he's deliriously in love now and seriously committed), and I told him I don't have one at present, but I'm okay about it, and I'm no longer "neurotic" about not having it.

With that, enjoy your weekend folks. Take care of you and yours!

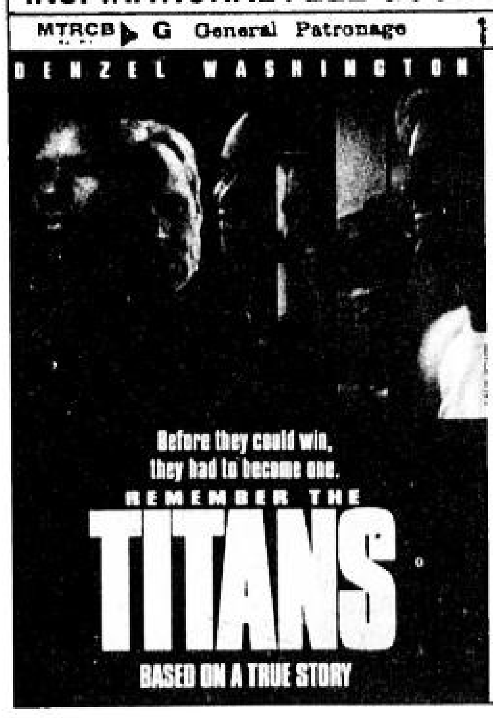
POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

1 TANGING YAMAN 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00	2 PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	3 BALAHIBONG PUSA 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
4 THE 6TH DAY 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	5 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	6 MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

A NEW COLONY SURFACES ON JAN. 17 !
MTRCB RATING PG | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



INSPIRATIONAL FEEL-GOOD MIGHT TRIUMPS ON SCREEN JAN. 17
MTRCB G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



DENZEL WASHINGTON
Before they could win, they had to become one.
REMEMBER THE TITANS
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

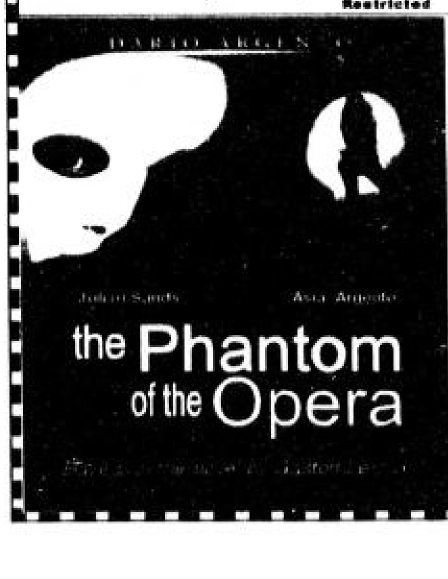
"In Greek mythology, the Titans were greater than the gods. They ruled their universe with absolute power. Let's rule like Titans."

And rule it does. Taking the U.S. by storm, "Remember the Titans" opened at the #1 spot in the U.S.with $21M, registering the biggest Denzel Washington opening weekend ever and generating the 3rd largest September opening in U.S. film industry history. It has grossed over $110M and continues to play to receptive audiences

Based on an inspirational and emotionally uplifting true story about 2 coaches, Boone (Denzel) and Yoast (Will Patton) who turned boys into men, united players into a team, and turned winners into heroes, it counts a young, talented and good-looking roster of male stars including Donald Faison (Felicity), Ryan Hurst and Kip "Sunshine" Pardue. Jerry Bruckheimer (Armageddon, Con Air) produced this sure-fire Oscar contender. One movie you'll never forget. Troop to the cinemas to

REMEMBER THE TITANS

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NOW SHOWING
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted



PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
the Phantom of the Opera

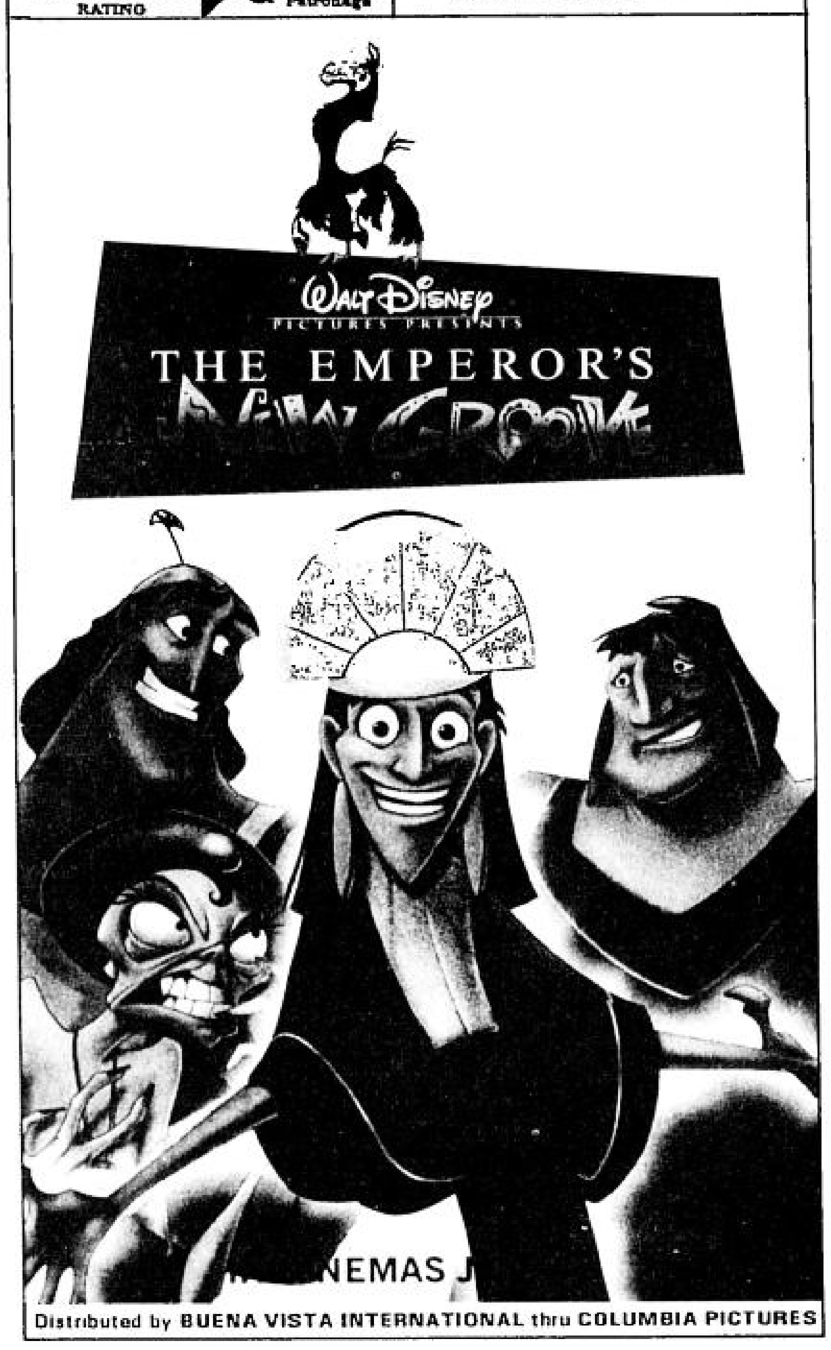
Julian Sands
"He"
is a monster
"He" is the
personification
of the world's mysteries
and nightmares...

Asia Argento
"She"
is Christine...
Stunningly beautiful...
Lost in an abyss
of torture
and forbidden pleasures...

Creating this mosaic of suspense, music, vivid colours and gothic architecture has been the greatest challenge of my career as a film maker
— Dario Argento

SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO STUDENTS W' I.D.

2ND GROOVY KING-SIZE FAMILY FUN WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL thru COLUMBIA PICTURES

READY . . . SET . . . GO!
THE RACE STARTS TODAY AT THE THEATERS!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

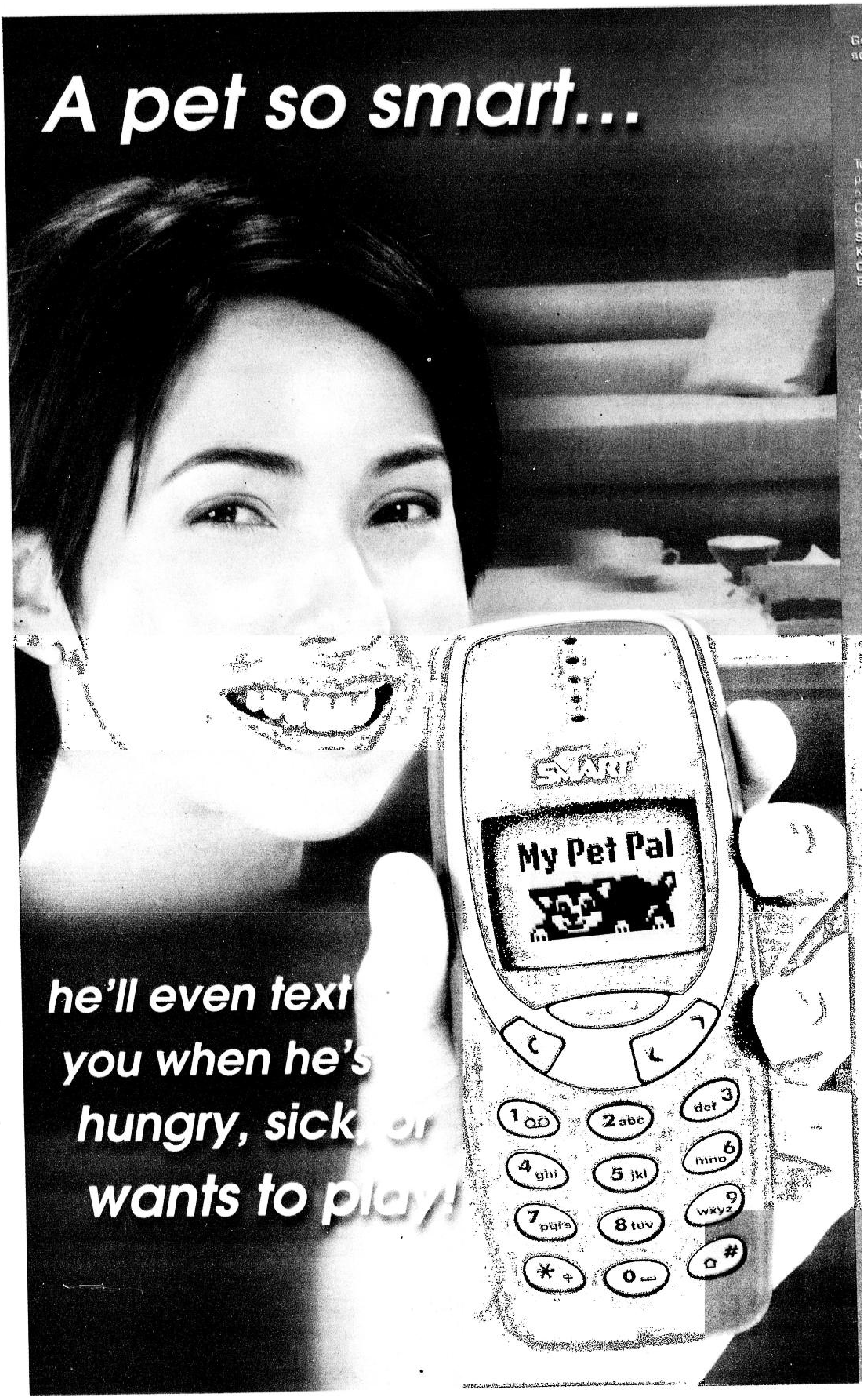
PROTO SABER EVO
CYCLONE MAGNUM
GUNBLUSTER XTO
HURRICANE SONIC
NEO TRIDAGGER ZMC
SPIN COBRA
Let's & Go!!
THE MOVIE
TAMIYA
© 1997 L & G PROJECT 97
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
Licensed by Animation International

SEE THE MOVIE & GET A CHANCE TO WIN A NISSAN SENTRA 1.3 FE
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS. PROMO PERIOD: JAN. 12 - 26, 2001
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3476 SERIES OF 2000

Schwarzenegger vs. Corruption & High- Tech Deception!
2nd ACTION PACKED WEEK!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

SCHWARZENEGGER
THEY PICKED THE WRONG MAN TO CLONE.
THE 6TH DAY
PHOENIX
sony.com/the6thday

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


A pet so smart...
he'll even text you when he's hungry, sick, or wants to play!
SMART
My Pet Pal

Getting a PET PAL is so easy! Here's how:

GETPET KAYTEE

To get a SMART zed Pet pal, type GETPET <pet pal name> and send to 233. Choose any of the following SMART zed Pet Pals:
SPARKEE the dog
KAYTEE the cat
CLAWEE the parrot
BUBLEE the dolphin

PET FEED MILK

To feed your hungry Pet Pal, type PET FEED <food type> and send to 233. You can feed your pet any of the following:

milk meat
cereals fish
fruits bread

PET NAME FLUFFY

To change your PET PAL NAME, type PET NAME <new name> and send to 233.

PET HEALTH

To find out the status of your Pet Pal's health, type PET HEALTH and send to 233. You will then receive a text message informing you of your pet's health.

VIEWPET <pet number>

To view what your Pet Pal looks like, type VIEWPET <pet number> and send to 233. You can get your Pet Pal's number by checking his or her health status.

KEYWORDS LIST:
PET LIST
GETPET <PETNAME>
PET FEED <MEAL>
PET DRINK WATER/[illegible]
PET SLEEP
PET PLAY
PET BATHE
PET HUG
PET CURE
PET HEALTH
VIEWPET <PET NUMBER>

₱2.50 / transaction including PET VIEW

Introducing SMART zed My Pet Pal!* Virtual pets on your SMART celfone that make your life more fun without making a mess! Plus you have your choice of four different virtual pets.The one you choose will text you when he's hungry, lonely, sleepy or sick. Then you can feed, hug, bathe, put to sleep, cure, or do so many other actions to your Pet Pal! So get your own cuddly little virtual friend today. SMART zed your celfone now!

THE POWER TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE.

SMART zed™

*You can only view your PET PAL if you are using a NOKIA 3210, 3310, 6210, 7110, 8210 or 8850 celfone. (For 6150 models, only versions higher than 4.11 are compatible). If you are not using a Nokia celfone, you can still maintain a PET PAL; however, you will not be able to view it.

SMART zed services are available through:

SMART GOLD GSM

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Equitable PCI
BANK
MEMBER PDIC · BancNet

BSP cuts rates; lower inflation seen

By Clarissa S. Batino

OVERNIGHT rates of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would go down by another half-a-percentage point on Monday to 12.5 percent for borrowing and 14.75 percent for lending.

The reduced rates are only 1.5 percentage points away from the pre-Juetengate level following a total of 2.5 percentage-point cuts since early December.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said signs of an easing inflationary pressure toward the second semester of the year convinced the policy-making Monetary Board yesterday that a further cut in its key policy rates could still be accommodated without prompting a surge in inflation.

The BSP chief also noted the stability in the financial markets despite a slight volatility in the peso-dollar trading yesterday. The peso yesterday closed at P51.325.

"Renewed prospects for a timely resolution of the political crisis also provided the BSP with more scope to implement its commitment to reduce the rates," the central bank governor said.

He pointed out that lower interest rates would help the government bring inflation down toward the second half of the year as it would help spur economic activity.

Buenaventura also credited expectations of further rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve as a factor that boosted the resolve of local monetary authorities to adjust key policy rates.

"On the whole, we should be able to reduce rates to at least 12 percent, possibly even 12 percent this year. How far down we can go depends largely on the size of the budget deficit this year and how the government intends to finance it," Buenaventura said.

He explained that the more domestic borrowings the government taps, the more constrained the BSP would be in cutting its rates.

The budget deficit last year was estimated to have soared to P139 billion from P111.7 billion in 1999. For 2001, economic managers expect the budget gap to swell to P120 billion against a target of P85 billion.

The cut in the central bank's rates is expected to lead to a further decline in the government's borrowing rates on Monday as reflected by the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate as well as bank lending rates.

Meantime, the government lowered its 2001 inflation forecast and said it expected the peso to strengthen this year.

Consumer prices will rise an average 6 percent to 7 percent from last year, Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla said. That's lower than the 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent increase he forecast last week. The peso will strengthen to 47 to 48 per US dollar by year-end from 51.2 now, he said.

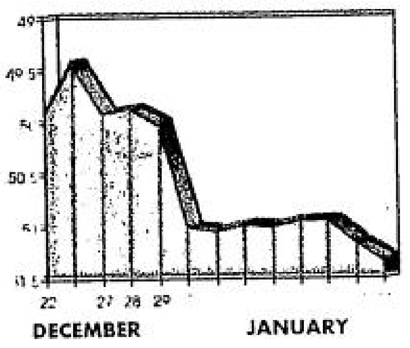
The government cut its inflation forecast "because of lower oil prices, and we are looking at an (economic) growth rate lower than 4 percent," Medalla told a conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines (Focap). Philippine oil companies recently cut retail fuel prices about 3 percent as global crude oil prices fell in December.

Still, inflation this year will top last year's 4.4 percent—bad news for an economy already battered by weak domestic spending, high interest rates, flagging exports and political instability. *With a report from Bloomberg*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

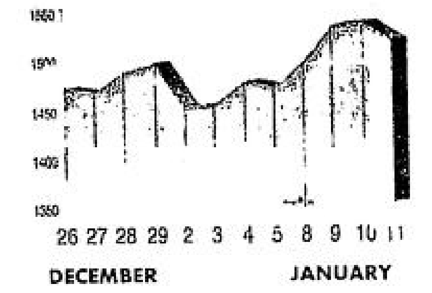
₱51.325 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 11, 2001

¥116.70 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 116.70 as of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 11, 2001

GOLD:$265.20/265.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares close lower

SHARES finished lower yesterday as investors cashed in on gains made during the past few sessions, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 18.26 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,515.89, after rising 0.2 percent Wednesday. The index gained 4.4 percent in the past three sessions.

"The market's gains were pretty strong in past sessions, so a certain measure of profit-taking is healthy," said BPI Securities assistant vice president Spencer Yap.

But another round of central bank rate reductions, which was announced shortly before the market closed, should provide investors reason to hunt for bargains in the next trading day, said KGI Securities vice president Fitzgerald Aclan.

"Barring any untoward developments, we should see the market rising in the next session," said Aclan. "The market will feed on the news of the rate cut."

Total volume of shares traded thinned to 188.4 million shares valued at P609.9 million from Wednesday's 396.2 million shares valued at P962.2 million.

Decliners led gainers 45 to 19, while 38 issues were unchanged. *AP*

Capwire posts gains

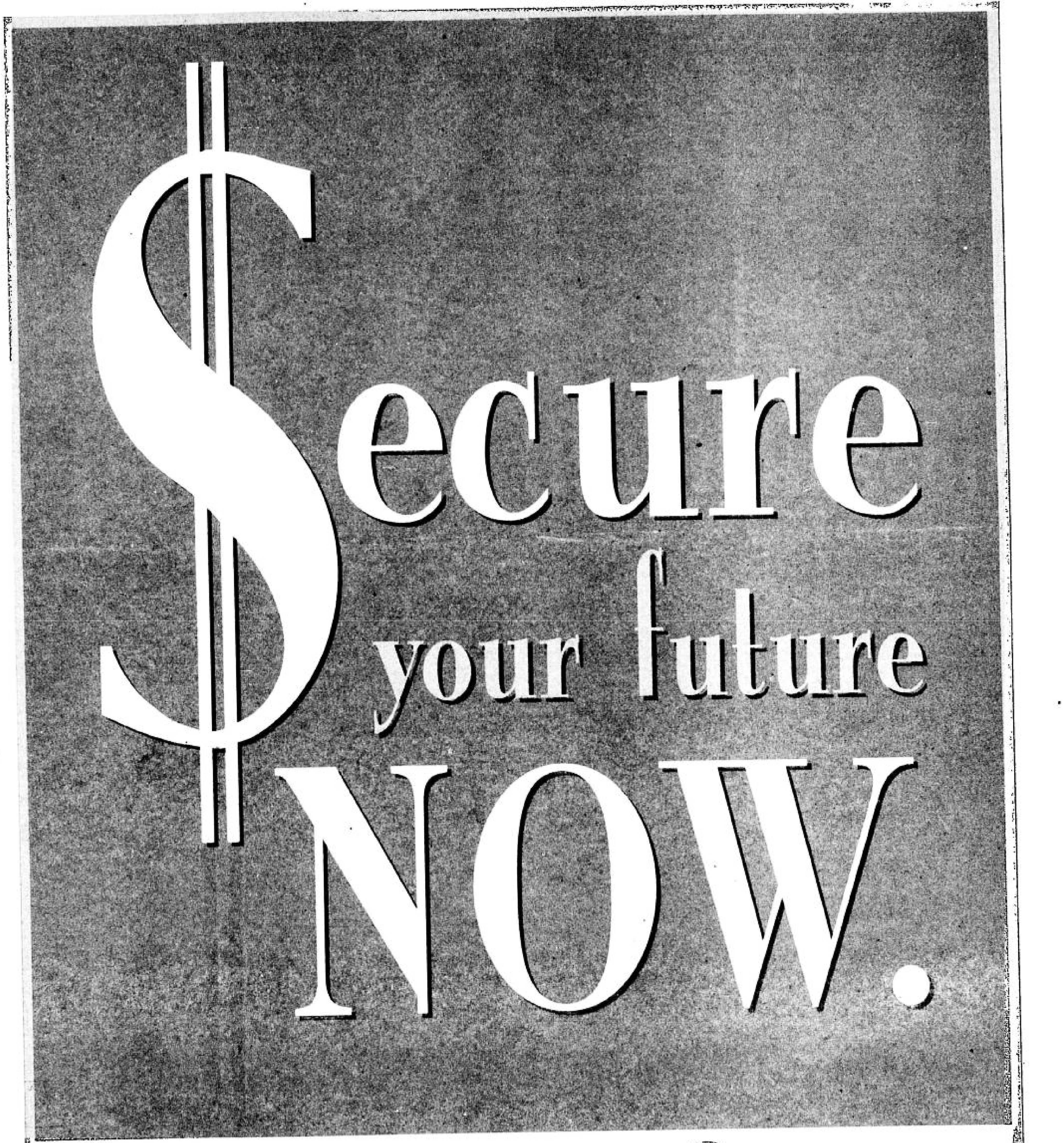
CAPWIRE Telecommunications yesterday reported a 52-percent increase in its international long distance (ILD) business in fiscal year 2000.

The ILD business accounts for roughly 77 percent of Capwire Telecommunications' total revenues.

Capwire Telecommunications executive vice president and chief operating officer Maureen V. Santiago said the encouraging performance of the ILD business compensated for the drop in accounting rates as a result of the stiff competition which saw ILD call rates falling by as much as $0.50 per minute. The drop in accounting rates resulted in much lower collection rates for ILD calls.

At the same time, Santiago said telecom gateway firms like Capwire were hit by the decline in settlement rates of inbound international calls.

Capwire earlier forged a debt restructuring agreement with a consortium of creditor banks led by Land Bank of the Philippines. The agreement is expected to pave the way for the telecom firm's expansion.



PHILAM LIFE
VersaDOLLAR Life

Philamlife, the Philippines' largest and most stable insurance company, offers you an even more secure plan to protect you and your family. Philamlife gives you VersaDollar, the insurance that protects you one step further by giving you cash benefits entirely in U.S. dollars! It also provides you an excellent opportunity to acquire or expand your dollar portfolio. Beat the financial odds and secure you and your family at the same time. VersaDollar. The best insurance decision you can make today. Talk to your Philamlife agent now!

Or call your Philam Phone Representative
683-88-88
for inquiries. Call or visit the nearest Philamlife office now.

PHILAM LIFE
Live life now.

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of personal financial services:
Philam Insurance Property & Casualty Insurance • Philam Bank Savings & Mortgage • Philam Asset Management Mutual Fund Investments • Philam Properties Property Development • Philam Plans Pre-need Plans • PhilamCare Health Care Management • AIG Credit Card

AIG A Member of American International Group, Inc.
www.philamlife.com.ph

LIFE • ACCIDENT & HEALTH • CREDIT LIFE • PENSIONS • GROUP LIFE • GROUP MEDICAL • FIRE • AUTO

Yes! I want to know more about Philamlife's VersaDollar.
Name
Occupation Age
Home Address
Home Phone Fax/Pager/Cell/E-mail
Business Address Business Phone
☐ I want to know more about the other Philamlife products.
Please send this coupon to the Marketing Department, PHILAMLIFE INSURANCE CO., 1440 U.N. Avenue, Manila or fax to 526-9570.

Bayantel seeks reprieve on $500M in debt

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

THE LOPEZ-OWNED Bayan Telecommunications Inc. has sought the restructuring of at least $500 million in foreign debt that piled up due to the Asian financial crisis and the continuing depreciation of the peso, compounded by a poor subscriber uptake.

The $500 million worth of debts consisted of loans and supplier's credits.

Carlos V. Tria Jr., managing director of the Lopez Group's Integrated Broadband Services, yesterday told reporters in a press conference that the company had tapped Bank of America to help in the restructuring of its debts.

"We are also talking to possible local and foreign partners who may come in. Some of the principal payments are already due this year," he said. He said the company hoped to come up with a debt-restructuring plan in the first quarter of 2001.

He said Telenor of Norway and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. were two of the possible partners who might come in and help Bayantel with the debt restructuring. Help from prospective partners could be in the form of equity infusion or loans.

Aside from the possible entry of PLDT into Bayantel, the official also revealed that the Lopez Group's Sky Vision Corp. (SkyCable) and the PLDT group's Home Cable Inc. were in the due diligence stage for a possible joint venture.

He said there were no details yet on the prospective PLDT-SkyCable joint venture. The PLDT group last year said it was exploring possible partnerships with the Lopez group involving the content provision for PLDT's convergence initiatives.

Bayantel has earmarked P1.5 billion for capital expenditure this year. Tria said the amount would be spent on the carrier, commercial and data businesses of the company. He said a number of data services would be introduced this year to enhance revenues.

Compared to 1999 figures, Bayantel lost some 30,000 subscribers as of end-2000, or a decline of 12 percent to 215,000 subscribers.

Chinky Alcedo, IBS vice president for stand-alone services, said this reflected the economic situation as some subscribers were unable to pay their monthly fees and Bayantel had to eliminate delinquent accounts.

"We are now refocusing our marketing efforts to acquire and retain better quality subscribers with higher usage and the propensity to stay," she said.

Bayantel is also awaiting the Court of Appeals' decision on its motion for the reconsideration of a ruling that annulled its provisional authority to provide cellular phone service.

COVERAGE EXPANSION

Congress urged to make tax perks more attractive

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce yesterday urged lawmakers drafting the amendments to the Omnibus Investments Act to relax the investment requirements in availing of the proposed 12-year income tax holiday.

In its comments on House Bill No. 10596 and Senate Bill No. 1713, the Amcham proposed that the investment threshold be lowered from $100 million to as low as $20 million and that the eligible investment projects be broadened to cover not only information technology projects but also infrastructure and export-oriented projects.

"We believe these incentives are important tools for the Philippines to attract new foreign investments during a period in which the country and the Asean region is becoming viewed as a less attractive investment destination," the Amcham said.

At present, the BOI grants a maximum of six years for income tax holiday which pales in comparison to the 10 years offered by other Asean countries. Amcham noted that the Senate bill did not have a provision for the granting of tax breaks while the House version grants a 12-year ITH only for IT projects and investments worth at least $100 million. The two bills are currently under deliberation by the bicameral conference committee.

The Amcham said it was important that the Philippines should offer foreign investment projects incentives at par or better than other Asian economies competing for similar investments.

These incentives have become even more important now that China, with its huge domestic market, and India are getting all the attention of corporate planners at the headquarters of large multinational companies. Amcham said that foreign businessmen invest in the country not to sell here but only to manufacture their goods here and ship them abroad.

The group noted that the jockeying for multinational investments has become intense among countries and that the Philippines "ranks low as a recipient of foreign investment, whether measured in absolute or per capital terms far below China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and even troubled Indonesia."

However, Amcham stressed that no matter how generous the incentives package to be approved by Congress, it would not address the reasons why investors are staying away from the Philippines such as corruption, political instability, poor infrastructure and red tape.

BCDA, SHELL SIGN AGREEMENT

Bases Conversion Development Authority Chair Rogelio L. Singson (seated, right) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. VP Ruben Alcober signed the lease contract for a 7,497-square-meter property along C-5 in Taguig. Shell has committed to put up a full-service gasoline station that incorporates a commercial component similar to the huge service stations found in the North and South Expressways.

PLANTERSBANK
A Private Development Bank
The Bank for the Filipino Entrepreneur
Plantersbank Bldg. 314 Buendia Ave. Ext., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 19, 2000

		AMOUNT
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		P 157,897,350
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		667,913,210
Due from Other Banks		1,123,382,404
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		12,274,434,355
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		401,693,787
Equity Investments (Net)		51,769,008
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (Net)		799,263,295
Other Assets (Net):		
a. Property Owned/Acquired		2,519,692,426
b. Others		1,852,322,577
TOTAL ASSETS	P	19,848,368,418
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits		P 816,318,087
Savings Deposits		6,175,221,630
Time Deposits		1,045,288,302
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		5,729,591
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		102,674,376
Bills Payable:		
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		5,848,444,524
Others		2,806,277,381
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		14 388,052
Other Liabilities		377,724,350
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	17,190,066,293
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock		P 1,562,116,620
Surplus		654,464,442
Surplus Reserves		3,594,943
Appraisal Increment Reserve		438,126,120
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	2,658,302,125
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	19,848,368,418
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Bills for Collection - Domestic		P 5,869,109
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Mgt. Agreements		500,039,746
Invested in:		
Government Securities	P 27,412,774	
Other Securities, Debt Instrument and Shares of Stock	121,638,102	
Loans and Discounts	51,141,700	
Other Assets	299,847,170	
Accountabilities.		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	291,221,773	
Investment/Fund Management	50,000,000	
Unearned Income and Other Accountabilities	158,817,973	
Securities Held as Collaterals		17,949
Other Contingent Accounts		97,637,629
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	603,564,433
Other Information		
1. Deposits of:		
a.) Banks		P197,975,705
b.) Trust Department		100,456,851
2. COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% For Small Ent.	2% For Medium Ent.
Actual Compliance	471.27%	1676.85%
Additional Information		
1. Non-performing loans and ratio to total loan portfolio		1,659,902,970 13 18%
2. Classified loans and other risk assets		1,318,584,970
3. General loan loss reserve		153,953,207
4. Specific loan loss reserve		214,956,928
5. Return on equity (ROE)		3.89%
6. DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total loan portfolio		265,579,970 2.1%
7. Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total loan portfolio		NONE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI, METRO MANILA) S.S.

We, Vicente G. Gamo and Maria Flordelis F. Aguenza of the above mentioned bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(SGD) VICENTE G. GAMO
Senior Vice President

(SGD) MARIA FLORDELIS F. AGUENZA
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8th day of January 2001, at Makati, Metro Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 02496813 issued at Quezon City on January 11, 2000 and Residence Certificate No 13740504 issued at Q.C., Metro Manila on March 22, 2000.

Doc No 68
Page No 15
Book No XLVIII
Series No 2001

(SGD) CECINIO R DEL ROSARIO
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until December 31, 2001
PTR No 1881652 Makati 1-6-2000
TIN# 138-101-152

Foreign Shareholders: International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Member: PDIC

A proud member of
BancNet

Chief Justice Davide on labor cases

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

A GLIMMER of hope amid so much darkness, despair and uncertainties. That is how majority of the Filipinos see Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as the whole nation faces one of its most trying times, groping for a solution to its serious political crisis and searching for a beacon light that can deliver us to some salvation.

Indeed, in each of the darkest moments in our history, there always emerged a leader whose rare competence, integrity and courage brought a ray of hope to our beleaguered people and inspired them to rise and become great again. That brilliant but unassuming legal luminary, whose face we see on TV everyday, making on-the-spot rulings on intricate questions of law and rising in almost flawless mastery of procedures and evidence can turn out to be a future president of this troubled country. Mark my word.

Davide's legal wisdom

Thus, we should know the mind of the Chief Justice for he is today the country's towering figure symbolizing justice in its purest form. Not just an expert of procedures and evidence as he rules on objections and pleadings in the impeachment trial, not just a master of constitutional and political laws as shown in his outstanding performance both as delegate to the 1972 Concon and as commissioner of the 1986 Concon, not just an authority on election law as tested in his stint as Comelec chair. He is also a respected figure in labor law and jurisprudence.

In his labor decisions, Chief Justice Davide always relates labor issues to constitutional principles. He discerns a more profound implication even to what may be, to lesser mortals, just mundane concerns involving labor-management relations. There is depth in the thinking process of this man, a perspective higher than other lawyers and a degree of legal wisdom that can enlighten both labor and management

Authority on labor law

Thus, in his ponencia concurred in by his 15-man court en banc in Aris Philippines vs. NLRC (GR 90501, Aug 5, 1991), the Chief Justice wrote: "In authorizing execution pending appeal of the reinstatement aspect of a decision reinstating a dismissed or separated employee, the law itself has laid down a compassionate policy which, once more vivifies and enhances the provisions of the 1987 Constitution on labor the workingman."

The Chief Justice stres in Aris "These provisions are the quintessence of the aspirations of the workingman for the recognition of his role in the social and economic life of the nation for the protection of his rights and the promotion of his welfare.'

Humanist and pro-people

The Chief Justice knows these constitutional provisions because he was principally their author. He, thus, wrote in Aris: "A study of the constitutions of various nations readily reveals that it is only our Constitution which devotes a separate article on social justice and human rights."

"Thus, by no less than its fundamental law, the Philippines had laid down the strong foundations of a truly just and humane society. This article addresses itself to specified areas of concern—labor, agrarian and natural resources reform, and housing, health, working women and people's organizations—and reaches out to the underpriviledged sector of society, for which reason the president of the ConCom, former Associate Justice of this Court, Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, aptly describes this article as the heart of the new charter".

Compassion for the poor

Chief Justice Davide stressed the state's duties to protect labor, viz. "These duties and responsibilities of the state are imposed not so much to express sympathy for the workingman as to forcefully and meaningfully underscore labor as a primary social and economic force, which the Constitution also expressly affirms with equal intensity. Labor is an indispensable partner for the nation's progress and stability."

He explained: "In such cases, the poor employees had been deprived of their only source of livelihood, their only means of support for their family—their lifeblood. That saving act is designed to stop continuing threat or danger to the survival or even the life of the dismissed or separated employees and his family."

He refused to affirm the dismissal of a worker who absented himself for a month. The guy was abandoned by his wife, thus he had to bring the kids to Samar. "He was then under emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical stress and strain." (Brewmaster, GR 119243, Apr. 17, 1997)

Pro-labor not anti-capital

Lest it be misunderstood, Davide's love for labor does not mean bias against employees. In PAL vs. NLRC (GR 120506, Oct. 28, 1996), he refused to hold PAL liable for the job security of workers belonging to a contractor. He clarified that the concept of indirect employer refers only to wages and not to securityof tenure. Thus, PAL should not be made to reinstate the contractor's employees.

Reason over law

The Chief Justice insists that an employee could not be dismissed for insubordination when he fails to obey an instruction that is legal but not reasonable. He said the instruction did not relate to the employee's duty. "It was to extract a whimsical and oppressive condition (that is) unreasonable and extremely difficult to comply with. Disobedience thereof, even if willful, cannot be a ground for dismissal." (Manebo vs. NLRC, GR 107721, Jan. 10, 1994)

To Chief Justice Davide, the law is not an end by itself. It is a means to achieve justice, an instrument to uphold reason. The law is a creation of man to pursue his nobler goals, not to obstruct them. This is the paradigm of the jurist from Colawin, Argao, Cebu, he who may be destined to be the next leader of this nation.

This writer had the privilege of watching this man since the '60s in Argao and in the courts of Cebu. We watched Noy Jun Davide in the Batasan, 1973 Concon and 1986 Concom, the Comelec, the Davide commission and the Supreme Court. And we conclude that in him, we can fully trust our fate. Mark my word.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS
FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.
A member firm of
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
IN A LEADING TRAVEL AND TOUR COMPANY

PricewaterhouseCoopers has been engaged by a global services client to assist in the sale of its interest in a travel and tour company in the Philippines.

The Company was established in 1969 and is a **major travel service provider** to various corporations and institutions in the Philippines. Currently, it is among the top travel and tour agencies in the Philippines, and ranks among the top 5,000 Philippine Corporations.

Its services include airline travel reservations and ticketing, local and international packaged tours, airline ticket re-validation and re-routing, hotel and other transport reservations, transport arrangements, travel planning, and emergency assistance.

PricewaterhouseCoopers will be running a controlled process in the sale of the minority interest in this company. Additional information is available upon request. To receive the Information Memorandum, you will first be required to sign a confidentiality undertaking with the company.

Interested parties should contact Mr. Marfred Pranada by January 31, 2001 at the address and numbers listed below.

**Marfred J. Pranada
Vice President
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Financial Advisors, Inc.
14th Floor Multinational
Bancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City,
Metro Manila
Telephone Number (632) 845-2728**

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, January 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.60	7.9	7.6	7.8	16,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.00	59	58.5	58.5	7,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	190.0	190	183	186	139,500
Philippine National Bank	37.50	38	37.5	38	3,900
Phil. Savings Bank	29.00	30	29	30	14,900
Security Bank Corp.	25.00	26	25	26	3,507,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.00	35	34	35	22,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1260	1250	1250	2,960
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1095	1095	1075	1085	6,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49.50	50	49.5	50	16,900
Globe Telecom Inc.	700.0	700	700	700	60
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4400	.44	.42	.44	700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.00	4	4	4	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	895.0	895	880	885	138,710
Ivantage Corp.	.8600	.86	.85	.86	400,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0350	.035	.034	.034	12,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	48.50	48.5	48	48.5	68,800
Manila Electric Co. "B"	53.00	54.5	53	54.5	614,600
Petron Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	4,413,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9200	.92	.92	.92	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	.8000	.8	.8	.8	70,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.4600	.5	.4	.5	3,280,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.4000	.4	.4	.4	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	.6000	.6	.6	.6	270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	43,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.00	10	9.9	10	561,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.50	32	31.5	32	201,100
Pure Foods Corp. "A"	95.00	95	95	95	1,000
RFM Corp.	1.00	1	1	1	30,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	49.50	50	49.5	50	552,200
San Miguel Corp. "B"	55.50	56	55.5	56	90,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.40	4.6	4.4	4.5	231,000
Vitarich Corp.	.4000	.4	.4	.4	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.50	7.6	7.4	7.4	6,534,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	400,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.25	11.5	1,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.7800	.78	.78	.78	30,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	40,000
Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc.	12.00	12	12	12	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	2,156,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.2200	.22	.22	.22	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.3300	.35	.33	.35	3,050,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	21.75	22	21.5	21.5	133,100
Global Equities Inc.	.3300	.34	.33	.34	340,000
Ionics Inc.	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.75	740,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings "B"	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.18	2.2	2.18	2.2	76,000
Megaworld Corp.	.8000	.8	.79	.79	1,640,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	2,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.5900	.6	.59	59	8,740,000
Solid Group Inc.	.4800	.52	.48	.48	6,200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.3300	.34	.32	33	1,660,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.3000	.33	3	.31	1,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs. Inc. "A"	.7700	1.22	.77	1.22	4,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.40	6.4	6.4	6.4	2,000
Music Corp.	2.90	2.95	2.9	2.9	490,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	.5700	.57	.57	.57	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1050	.105	.105	.105	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.8500	.86	.85	.86	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.70	7.7	7.7	7 7	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.-	7000	7	.69	.69	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.7400	.74	7	.7	10,340,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.4000	.4	4	.4	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	50.50	50.5	50	50.5	283,400
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	2,070,000
Jollibee Warrants	9.70	9.7	9.7	9.7	5,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0026	.0026	.0026	.0026	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Waterfront Phils.-Warrant	.0750	.075	.07	.07	300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.70	5.7	5.6	5.6	7,317,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.3300	.33	.31	.31	80,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.4500	.45	.45	.45	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.2100	.21	.2	.205	1,070,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.4000	.4	.4	.4	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3400	.35	.34	.34	5,540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	2,615,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.1600	.16	.16	.16	300,000
Phil. Realty and Holdings	.1500	.16	.15	.16	420,000
SM Development Corp.	.8500	.95	.85	.95	1,100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.00	6.1	5.9	6	17,907,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.0950	.095	.095	.095	800,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	3,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	2,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	8,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A"	.1900	.19	.19	.19	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.2000	.21	.2	.2	180,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0036	.0038	.0036	.0038	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2350	.235	.23	.23	1,200,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1300	.13	.13	.13	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	.0050	.005	.005	.005	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0044	.0044	.0044	.0044	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0042	.0042	.0042	.0042	7,000,000
Pacifica	.0150	.015	.015	.015	10,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	.1800	.18	.18	.18	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,720,290	127,587,100.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	84,713,270	325,000,015.00
PRO	37,489,000	156,386,590.00
Mining	31,580,000	492,000.00
OIL	30,140,000	267,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	187,642,560	609,733,505.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	554.59	DOWN 3.10
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,126.46	DOWN19.55
PRO	524.21	DOWN12.76
Mining	1,220.87	DOWN 3.05
OIL	1.73	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	760.58	DOWN11.69
Composite	1,515.89	DOWN18.26

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 2,097

CURRENCIES

Jan. 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.067122	1.000000	51.0640
Japan	Yen	0.009163	0.008587	0.4385
United Kingdom	Pound	1.588304	1.488400	76.0037
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136816	0.128210	6.5469
Switzerland	Franc	0.655481	0.614251	31.3661
Canada	Dollar	0.710846	0.666134	34.0155
Singapore	Dollar	0.616264	0.577501	29.4895
Australia	Dollar	0.595459	0.558005	28.4940
Bahrain	Dinar	2.830713	2.652661	135.4555
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284513	0.266617	13.6145
Brunei	Dollar	0.613994	0.575374	29.3809
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024759	0.023202	1.1848
UAE	Dirham	0.290563	0.272287	13.9041
Korea	Won	0.000841	0.000788	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.937100	47.8521
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.479132	24.4664
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142860	7.2950
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.425237	21.7143
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068102	3.4776
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023230	1.1862
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000484	0.0247
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.157609	8.0481
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004674	0.2387
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005632	0.2876
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02323	1.1862
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.189872	60.7596

A new Ang-le

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

NO LESS than Equitable Bank's George Go himself has confirmed that San Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang was present in the Dec. 13 meeting in the office of Estrada lawyer Estelito Mendoza, where Go, Erap financier Jaime Dichaves, Erap lawyer Fernando Chua, and Equitable PCI Bank trust officer Clarissa Ocampo attempted to create a new Jose Velarde paper trail with another set of antedated documents.

Ang was apparently one of the two men inside the Mendoza office that Ocampo said she espied on but could not identify.

Hmmm. What would Danding's right-hand man be doing in a cover-up scheme for Jose Velarde?

(Late-breaker: In addition to Laarni Enriquez, George Go has slipped out of the country. Go left the other night ostensibly to seek medical treatment overseas.)

Caught on tape

THE TESTIMONIES of both Jose Luis Yulo and Ruben Almadro about President Estrada intervening with the two former Philippine Stock Exchange officials in behalf of BW Resources' Dante Tan may be bolstered by a videotape made by Malacañang, no less.

Both Yulo and Almadro testified that Mr. Estrada summoned them in Malacañang on Feb. 14, 2000, to intercede for his friend Tan.

That evening, Mr. Estrada hosted an Erap Para sa Mahirap Valentine dinner-dance at the Palace. Guess who was seated with Mr. Estrada at the presidential table? Why, no less than Dante Tan himself.

The President and his contributor were so engrossed in discussions that other VIP guests who had wanted to greet and talk to Mr. Estrada could not butt in, recalled an eyewitness.

The event, as customary in all public presidential events, was dutifully videotaped by the RTVM unit of the Office of the Press Secretary, headed by actress Lollie Mara, a holdover from the Aquino days.

Impeachment indicators

FORTUNE must really be smiling on the Fortun brothers. The two Erap lawyers are now being conveyed to the daily Senate impeachment hearings in a spanking new, still plateless Opel Omega station wagon.

Jose Flaminiano, a retired Manila chief fiscal, wades through Manila's monstrous traffic jams in a chauffeur-driven Toyota Prado.

Estelito Mendoza, of course, cruises around in an S-class Merc limo even before he took on Jose Velarde as client.

Contrast this with Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo who still travels in his '80s-era, diesel-spewing Mercedes Benz with a misaligned front bumper.

Philcomsat follies

THE CORPORATE coup staged by Jaime Dichaves allies that ousted president Manuel Nieto and chair Ronaldo Salonga from the sequestered Philcomsat/POTC group seems to have backfired.

President Estrada has given a new instruction, dated Jan. 5, 2001, ordering the board of the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. to reinstate former Ambassador Manuel Nieto as president.

Nieto, who was caught in the middle, was ousted after he refused to transfer control of the P1-billion cash hoard of Philcomsat to the Dichaves boys.

The Ombudsman, on the other hand, has dismissed a grave misconduct charge filed by an "estafadora" against Salonga, a complaint used by the Dichaves group to lobby for Salonga's ouster.

According to the grapevine, Salonga was summoned to Malacañang by Mr. Estrada following the dismissal of the Ombudsman complaint during the Christmas holidays, with the President promising to resolve the boardroom battle that saw the Dichaves boys publicly slanging with another group of Estrada allies.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MAKATI prosecutor's office has found probable cause to file an estafa case against investment banker Jose Armando Eduque for his failure to deliver P10 million worth of securities to Prudential Bank.

Prudential Bank sued Eduque, CEO of the failed East Asia Capital Corp., claiming East Asia double-sold the securities intended for Prudential Bank.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Philrealty restructures ₱1.6-B loans

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

REAL estate developer Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. has restructured P1.6 billion worth of loans as part of an overall strategy to better manage its debt exposure amid the continuing slump in the property sector.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Philrealty executive vice president Amador Bacani said the company has restructured these loan obligations with Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. into a 10-year loan.

The restructuring deal included a two-year grace period on the payment of principal, which is expected to give the company some breather amid the difficult economic environment.

This developed as the high-rise residential and office condominium sector where Philrealty is heavily exposed to has remained in the doldrums in the face of rising vacancy rates and more forthcoming supply.

Philrealty, for its part, has focused on reducing its debt in order to weather the slump in the property sector. In 1999, for instance, it has slashed its debts by more than 40 percent from P4.47 billion in 1998 to P2.61 billion through a combination of dacion en pago (asset-for-debt swap) and sale of assets.

For instance, it has divested its holdings in Bonifacio Land Corp. in favor of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., with the proceeds applied to the balance for its lots in the Bonifacio Global City and the acquisition of additional lots and condominium units at the Bonifacio Ridge.

Philrealty is part of a P1.2-billion residential condominium project of Comunidades Developers Inc. inside Fort Bonifacio and has agreed to earmark a P300-million lot as capital for the project. In exchange for a 1,986-square-meter property, Philrealty will get 30 percent of the total units of the 25-story residential condominium project valued at P60,000 per square meter.

Philrealty is also planning to invest in the technology sector in order to generate revenues from alternative sources. Late last year, it agreed to invest P200 million to acquire 80 percent of Synapse Network Inc., an unlisted, local Internet firm.

Synapse plans to establish an Internet backbone to lower the access cost of subscribers of Internet service providers and provide access to the Internet in remote areas of the country.

Aside from property development, Philrealty has a 10-percent stake in medium-sized commercial bank International Exchange Bank.

PLDT shares exempted from registration rules

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission agreed yesterday to exempt from its registration requirements 30 million Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. shares worth P300 million.

PLDT said the 30 million shares representing 10 percent of its cumulative convertible preferred stock with a par value of P10 would be issued as series BB from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2001 under its subscriber investment plan.

PLDT established a subscriber investment plan in 1974 in line with the implementation of Presidential Decree 217. Every year since then, the country's No. 1 telecommunications firm has been creating a new series representing 10 percent of its cumulative convertible preferred stock for its subscribers.

All shares under the subscriber investment plan—starting from series A to AA—were exempted from registration requirements under the Revised Securities Act.

The Revised Securities Act exempts securities by a public utility or service corporation if these are meant to broaden the company's equity base and finance part of its capital investment.

While this provision of the Revised Securities Act was deleted from the Securities Regulation Code, PLDT said the transaction could still be exempted from the SEC's registration requirements under Section 10.2 of the Securities Regulation Code. This section allows the SEC to exempt transactions if it finds the registration requirements are not necessary because of the small amount involved or the limited character of the public offering.

PLDT said the amount of investment made by a subscriber was relatively small and the issue price of such shares was fixed at par value.

It also said trading of such shares had also been historically thin and limited.

In a meeting yesterday, the commission approved the exemption of 30 million PLDT shares to be issued in line with Section 10.2 of the Securities Regulation Code.

BOC seeks OK of Urban rehab

BANK of Commerce has set the deadline of Jan. 19, 2001 to secure written consents to the Liability Servicing Plan under the proposed rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc.

The bank had decided it would pursue the rehabilitation of UBI only upon receipt of the written consents from depositors, creditors and preferred shareholders representing 90 percent of the total amount of UBI's deposits, liabilities and preferred stockholdings.

In order to secure said written consents, BOC earlier conducted a series of road shows in Metro Manila, Baguio, Bacolod, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao and General Santos City. Although consent letters have been received by BOC, the 90-percent level has not yet been reached. Therefore, BOC has sought the assistance of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) to reach out to the depositors who have yet to submit their written consents as BOC has no access to the complete names and addresses of the depositors of UBI.

BOC's rehab proposal for the closed UBI requires the final approval of the PDIC and the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. On Dec. 12, 2000, BOC's proposal was endorsed in a special stockholders' meeting of UBI. In that meeting, BOC reiterated its commitment to service all deposits, liabilities and claims of creditors of UBI and UII within a three-year period. BOC is also waiting for the SEC's final approval on the UII rehab.

DISCLOSURES

THE REDUCTION by 108,200 PDRs of **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.,** as represented by PDR certificate nos. 818, 822 and 820 from its listed PDRs, shall take effect on Jan. 12. This brings the number of PDRs listed to a total of 267,726,100 PDRs.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty and Holdings Corp. has restructured its loan obligations with **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.** amounting to P1.66 billion into a 10-year term loan, inclusive of a two-year grace period on the payment of principal.

* * *

IN CONNECTION with the joint venture of **DM Consunji Inc.** and **R-II Builders Inc.** as disclosed on Jan. 9, **DMCI Holdings Inc.** informed that the MMDA's interim integrated waste management project is currently facing social acceptability and legal constraints, which could materially affect or alter any information pertaining to the project.

* * *

ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. informed that director Alexander Lacson passed away last Dec. 19. Francisco Acosta has been elected by the board to serve the remaining term of Lacson until August 2001.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Manila Broadcasting Co.** approved the infusion of capital via a debt-to-equity conversion by **Elizalde Holdings Corp.** and its affiliates in the sum of P170 million to be converted at par value of P1 per share. The board has likewise rescheduled its special stockholders' meeting to Feb. 9.

* * *

WILLIAM Fatt was appointed director of **Sun Life Financial** effective Jan. 1.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Pure Foods Corp.** approved the declaration of cash dividend of P3.52 on each common share of stock issued and outstanding to all stockholders of record as of Jan. 25. Payment of the dividends shall be available on or before Feb. 25.

* * *

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. has moved to its principal office at Don Mariano Santos Avenue, Barrio San Isidro, Angono, Rizal, effective Jan. 8. The Metro Manila business address which serves as its marketing and liaison office is located at EC-06B, East Tower, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

WARNING!

BALDNESS CAN KILL!

KILLS CONFIDENCE
Your balding head can make you the butt of jokes and turn off the girl you wish to court; consequently, ruining your self-esteem.

KILLS ENTHUSIASM
When you lose your confidence, you also lose your enthusiasm. Your appetite and zest for life disappears. In short, baldness can kill your enjoyment of life.

KILLS PERSONAL APPEAL
A balding head will make you look older and boring. It can turn off women, destroying your personal appeal.

THE SOLUTION:
SVENSON INTERNATIONAL
Get a full head of hair whether you have a thinning crown or an already bald pate.

The Svenson Non-Surgical Hair Integration Method is not a wig nor is it a transplant. It's natural hair exactly the same as your own, woven and integrated into your own remaining hair. You can do whatever you wish without worries of it falling off. It's so natural, no one would ever know you have it.

Heed our warning. Seek help NOW from Svenson International.

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

MAKATI
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.
817-2260 • 817-2194

QUEZON CITY
Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue
372-6631 • 372-6632

BINONDO
Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.
243-0128 • 244-8913

ALABANG
Citibank-Fraballe Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd:
842-1389 • 842-4181

CEBU
Keppel Centre, Cebu City
032-2340851 • 032-2340853

Certified by ASI Asian Society of Trichology

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) · SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

all about élan
[ela] flair, di
House of Versace's Peaux d' Animaux
Meet the exciting new JILL
Faces of Hope from SOS Children's Village of Davao
Loida Nicolas Lewis' Sorsogon Apartment in Manila
This Saturday, January 13, 2001

IMF warns Asia of slowdown risks

WASHINGTON—International Monetary Fund chief Horst Koehler has highlighted risks to Asia from a US economic slowdown and the region's sluggish pace of reforms in a meeting with bankers and investors.

The meeting, held in Singapore yesterday, was attended by 19 regional, state-owned and global institutions based in Japan, South Korea, China and other countries in the area.

"Discussions centered around the region's economic prospects (and) the pace of financial restructuring," IMF spokesman Thomas Dawson said.

Analysts said Asia's recovery from the widespread economic contractions of the late 1990s could suffer from a US slowdown. The strong demand for Asian imports in the United States helped pull several countries in Asia out of recessions in the last two years.

The forecast for a 4.2-percent world economic growth in 2001 will be revised down "significantly," according to Koehler's top deputy, Stanley Fischer.

And that global slowdown would diminish Asia's prospects for a 6.6-percent economic expansion this year, analysts said.

"The Asian countries haven't made near the progress they needed to (improve their economies) and, on top of that, you now have the worsening external environment," said Nariman Behravesh, chief international economist at Standard & Poor's DRI, the private forecasting arm of Standard & Poor's Corp.

Economic authorities in Japan, the world's second-largest economy and Asia's economic driver, haven't sent clear signals on their plans to pump up growth.

"There is some pressure for them to go back to zero" rates five months after the Bank of Japan increased interest rates to 0.25 percent, Fischer said last month.

In the United States, "the soft landing is not going to be as soft as we may like, but it will not be a hard landing," Koehler said in an interview with the Business Times of Singapore while visiting the island nation.

Koehler told the newspaper that US growth could slow to 2.5 percent this year, down from 3.2 percent forecast in September. Along with the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates, which the fund welcomed, Koehler said tax cuts would help boost growth, yet they should be handled carefully as they might also exacerbate the already low savings rate and current account deficit in the United States. *Bloomberg*

Blacklisted nations agree to confront tax haven rift

PARIS—Officials from the largest industrial economies and some nations that appear on a blacklist of suspected tax havens have agreed to work out differences over financial practices that regulators say promote tax evasion.

Participants agreed to form a working group and extend a "dialogue" based on principles of increased disclosure and information sharing with other tax authorities, according to a statement issued after two days of meetings in Barbados.

The goal of the working group, which would meet in London before the end of the month, would be to find a "mutually acceptable political process by which these principles could be turned into commitments," the 30-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said.

Discussions were "frank, open and ultimately fruitful," according to the OECD statement sent to news agencies.

Since the economic turmoil caused by capital flight and recessions in Asia, Latin America and Russia during the late 1990s, the OECD had been pushing for tighter regulation of the international financial system. The United States, Japan, Britain, Canada and France are among the group's member countries.

Among those joining OECD countries in Barbados for talks were representatives of Caribbean nations and international organizations, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The OECD gave the 35 countries that appeared on its list until July to commit to increased disclosure and the sharing of information by the end of 2005 or face retaliatory penalties.

Tax havens impose no more than nominal taxes, allow non-residents to escape taxation in their country of residence and refuse to disclose tax information, among other practices cited by the OECD.

Eight countries or territories on the blacklist, including Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, have pledged to cooperate with the group.

Last week, France pledged to start talks with Monaco to tighten the "inadequate" financial regulations that make the Mediterranean principality a suspected money-laundering and tax haven.

"We still have six months to go before July and I'm optimistic that all the jurisdictions will be able to convince us that they are ready to cooperate," Seiichi Kondo, the OECD's deputy secretary general, said last week. *Bloomberg*

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION (PEATC)
G/F, Bayview International Tower III
Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED SCRAP MATERIALS LOCATED AT PEA TOLLWAY COMPOUND, SAN DIONISIO, PARAÑAQUE CITY.

"AS IS WHERE IS"

Item No.	Qty.	Unit	Unit Weight (Kgs/pc)	Total Weight (Kgs)	Description
1		rolls		6,950	Electrical cables, various sizes (22mm^2 Ø, 32mm^2 Ø, 38mm^2 Ø, 50mm^2 Ø)
2	776	Pcs.	45	34,920	Galvanized steel guardians (3.80mm x 500mm x 4.13m)
3	213	Pcs.	28	5,964	Galvanized steel guardrailposts (3.80mm x 150mm x 1.85m)
4	217	Pcs.	5	1,085	Galvanized steel guardrail spacer (3.80mm x 150mm x 500m)
5	1	Ea			Paper Copier, Toshiba 2540 Tricom Dynamics (as is)
6	32	Pcs.			Used Rubber tires, assortes sizes
7	24	gal.			Industrial liquid floor wax

NOTES:

1. Unit costs for items 1, 2 and 3 shall be per kilogram.
2. All items shall be picked-up at site.

Invitation is open to all Filipino firms, companies or individuals with the Financial Capability.

Sealed bids shall be submitted to: The CHAIRMAN, Committee on Disposal, PEA Tollway Corporation, G/F, Bayview International Tower III, Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City, Metro Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. on **January 22, 2001**.

PEATC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. PEATC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. BRICCIO B. HULIGANGA, JR.**
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON DISPOSAL

(PDI - Jan 10 11 & 12 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

To Our Valued Customers:

Please be informed that **HIMAYA ELECTRO CORPORATION** have closed its branches in **Cebu** and **Davao** cities, and have not authorized any person or company to represent its interest in these areas.

Refer all business transactions to our main office at:

HIMAYA ELECTRO CORPORATION
798 A. Maceda corner Loyola Streets, Sampaloc, Manila
TELS.: 740-9521 to 25
FAX: (632) 781-2130
E-MAIL: himx@netasia.net

(PDI – Jan. 12, 2001)

WESTERN LUZON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
San Marcelino, Zambales
PRE/POST-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

December 26, 2000

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

NOTICE is hereby given that this Office desires to enter into CONTRACT for furnishing of labor, materials, equipment and expertise necessary for:

1. CONTINUATION OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (San Marcelino Campus)
2. CONSTRUCTION/REPAIR OF ROAD (San Marcelino Campus)
3. CONTINUATION OF ROAD NETWORK (Porac Campus)

Interested contractors are invited to prequalify. Deadline for prequalification is on January 15, 2001.

Pre-bid conference is scheduled on January 17, 2001 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the 2nd Floor, Administration Building, San Marcelino campus.

Sealed bid on forms to be furnished by the WLAC-PBAC Office at the San Marcelino campus will be received not later than January 24, 2001 at 10:00 AM and then publicly opened on the same day in the presence of qualified bidders.

For particulars, re: proposal bid forms and other prerequisites may be obtained from this Office. Only those prequalified contractors can participate in the bidding.

All bids shall be prepared in accordance with the guidelines prescribed under P.D. 1594.

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and to accept such as may be considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) PROF. BENJAMIN R. CAPISTRANO
Chairman

NOTED:

(Sgd.) DAVID B. ANDRES, Ph.D.
President

(PDI – Jan. 5, 9 & 12, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Amulung
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Municipal Government of Amulung with principal office address at Centro, Amulung, Cagayan, invites all interested persons or entities to participate in the bidding for the purchase of two (2) units Isuzu Dumptrucks 6-15 tons gross weight capacity (6 WHEELER) and one (1) unit Payloader (flywheel HP 110HN) 1.3 - 2.3 bucket capacity. The public bidding shall be held at the Office of the Municipal Mayor at Centro, Amulung, Cagayan or at the DILG Central Office at Cubao, Quezon City on January 31, 2001 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

All interested persons or entities are to submit to the Office of the Municipal mayor not later than January 19, 2001 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, vital documents necessary for pre-qualification to be conducted by the Municipal PBAC on the same day.

All pre-qualified prospective bidders are to submit their sealed proposals in two (2) copies to the PBAC not later than the date and time and at the place of public bidding above-mentioned. Proposals must be accompanied with a proposal bond in the form of cash, certified or manager's check, or bank draft, or any combination hereof payable to the Municipal Treasurer of Amulung, in the amount of 5% of the bid proposal, and Two Hundred pesos (P200.00) as bidder's fee.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereon or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

All communications relative to this invitation must be address to the Office of the Municipal Mayor at Amulung, Cagayan.

Amulung, Cagayan, December 22, 2000.

(Sgd.) NICANOR C. DE LEON
Municipal Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Dec. 29, 2000, Jan. 5 & 12, 2001)

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Powerpuff Girls

Q. Who created the Powerpuff Girls?

A. Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles—the pint-sized superheroines who save the world before bedtime—are the brainchild of 28-year-old Craig McCracken. He created them in 1991 as a college animation project in his sophomore year at the California Institute of Arts in a cartoon he originally titled The Whoopass Girls.

The animation company Hanna Barbera saw Craig's Whoopass Girls, and thought it would make a cute series. But since "Whoopass" wasn't appropriate for television, especially about little girls, the name "Powerpuff" was adopted.

The Powerpuff Girls premiered on Cartoon Network in 1995 as part of "World Premiere Toons" shorts in the episode "Meat Fuzzy Lumpkins." Their very first real episode were "Monkey See, Doggie Do" and "Mommy Fearest" which aired on November 19, 1998. Needless to say, the popularity and appeal of these adorable large-eyed lasses, and they are now one of the highest rated shows on cable. McCracken is now working on his first Powerpuff Girls feature-length movie, scheduled for release in 2002.

For the Record. Wonder Woman (aka Diana Prince) was created in 1941 by Dr. William Moulton Marston, inventor of the systolic blood-pressure test which lead to the development of the polygraph (lie detector). Using the test, Marston was convinced that women were more honest and reliable than men and could work faster and more accurately. As an educational consultant for Detective Comics, Inc. (now better known as DC Comics), he saw that the DC line was filled with super males (such as Green Lantern, Batman, and Superman) and wondered why there was not a female hero. With the approval of Max Gaines, then head of DC Comics, Marston proceeded to create a female comic book hero—a "Wonder Woman." He used the pen name Charles Moulton, a combination of his own middle name with the middle name of Gaines:

WORD WATCH

Maton : from the Spanish *maton*, 'bully.'

PDI – January 12, 2001

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

BUSINESS Friday
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Why women are better borrowers

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

GLORIA Manukan of Kalibo, Aklan, is a mother of six who used to wash clothes to augment the meager earnings of her husband, a tricycle driver.

A microfinance program of the People's Credit and Finance Corp. to a bank enabled her to borrow P5,000 without collateral and start a piña-weaving business.

A good payment record allowed her to borrow P10,000 after a few years and she used this to buy a loom. Today, she has five looms and employs five women. Her husband now operates two tricycles.

Gloria's story is replicated by thousands, mostly women in the countryside, who have benefited from the micro-enterprise lending of the PCFC, a state agency created in 1995.

PCFC, initially capitalized with P100 million, was registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission to become the state's main arm in providing micro finance services to borrowers without assets, says its chair and chief executive officer Orlando Sakay.

To date, the agency, in partnership with 183 conduits that are mostly cooperative and rural banks as well as non-government groups, has released about P2.14 billion in small loans to over 255,600 borrowers.

Sakay, a specialist in rural lending, says the target is to have an outreach level of a million borrowers by year 2004.

Patterned after the lending principles of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, PCFC boasts of a 98.5-percent repayment rate and a past due ratio of merely 2 percent as compared to a bad loans ratio average of 15.6 percent for commercial banks.

PCFC upholds the value of good credit standing and stresses this in the program. Having no material assets, the poor cling to their name as a veritable collateral.

Through joint liability, peer pressure, and pledged group savings which are essentially the framework of the Grameen principle, micro borrowers are able to pay their dues on time.

Before a loan can be availed of,

WHY/ B7

From cut-make-trim, local clothes makers shift to designer wear and capture Europe

By GIL CABACUNGAN JR.

MARKETING STRATEGY

THERE was a time when the Philippines was one of the leading exporters in the US and European markets but export figures dwindled over the years, particularly in Europe.

Local apparel makers considered Europe a dying market for Philippine garments and so they crowded the quota lanes to the more profitable US market as recently as four years ago.

Garments exports to Europe declined by between 5 percent and 9 percent from 1997 to 1999 in contrast to the robust 6 percent to 12 percent growth of sales to the US during the same period.

But while pundits thought Europe was passe, the Garments and Textile Export Board thought otherwise as it silently laid the groundwork for the Philippines' reentry into the world's second biggest market for apparel.

The Philippines reestablished a strong presence in Europe on the back of strong demand for casual wear as well as the emerging European trend toward American brands and designs.

But more importantly, the GTEB engineered the comeback via the Profil (for pro-Filipino) promotional strategy launched three years ago.

"We couldn't just let Europe die without trying to get it back. The market is too important for us if we want the industry to survive beyond 2004 when all quotas have been abolished," GTEB executive director Felicidad Reyes said.

The GTEB encouraged the local exports industry to shift from a mere cut-make-trim enterprise into a maker of design-inspired, market-adapted apparel.

This strategy improved the product mix of the garments exports and was aimed at preparing the local apparel makers for the post-quota era starting 2004.

Reyes said the GTEB learned its lesson from past selling missions to Europe where the Philippine participants lost out to competition in Asia as they would be selling either shirts or pants but never both.

Reyes said most buyers wanted a whole full line, thus, GTEB shifted promotional efforts to offer buyers a complete collection.

The strategy was programmed to run for at least three years to promote a broader range of products and markets.

Three years after, GTEB is now reaping the fruits of its efforts.

GTEB chose Great Britain as a testing ground for Profil since it is the biggest garment importer in Europe and its market is highly competitive, sophisticated and image-literate.

GTEB tapped British-based designers to assist Philippine makers in their product development of a wide range of lines from formal to casual wear, lingerie, sleepwear, tailoring sports and woven and knitted leisurewear.

Senior designer and consultant Sue Nosworthy-McNeil, who oversees the sportswear line, leads the five designers. Her partners were assigned to supervise other lines such as ladies wear, knitwear, leisurewear and children's wear.

McNeil said she has always felt that "the Philippines is a country just waiting to happen."

Her job is to ensure that the Euro designs are executed correctly without overshadowing the Filipinos' intricate embroidery, smocking, beading and embellishments.

The finished products would form the core of the Philippine garment collection that will showcase the country's trendy and classic designs as well as quality work.

The top buyers of garment and textiles in Europe last year were Great Britain (up 19 percent to $123.47 million), Germany (up 17 percent to $97.22 million), and Benelux countries (up 37.6 percent to $66.45 million).

The top five corporate buyers of Philippine-made garments in Europe are Otto Versand GmBH (up 98 percent to $26.711 million), Adidas (up 20.05 percent to $25.627 million), Gap (up 80.79 percent to $22.932 million), Poloco S.A. (39.88 percent to $9.08 million), and Nike (up 35.6 percent $7.698 million).

Reyes said GTEB's goal in the coming years was to broaden the European market since 92 percent of all exports to the region are shipped to only five countries—Great Britain, Germany,

FROM/ B7

It's My Mom We Are Talking About Here. She Deserves St. Luke's.

Watch St. Luke's "Health Care" on The Big News, ABC 5, Mondays to Fridays, 10 PM

In fact everyone in the family deserves
world class St. Luke's health care. But Mom's Mom.
She held you in her arms when you bruised your knee,
wiped your tears dry, held your hand all the way.
Now, Mom's heart is fighting for her own heart.
She deserves the best cardiovascular care.
The state-of-the-art facilities in the hands of
experienced, caring, highly skilled cardiologists.
Give Mom the best.
Give Mom world class care
from St. Luke's.

97 years
World Class Technology & Expertise in Caring Hands

St. Luke's Medical Center
World Class Technology And Expertise In Caring Hands

279 E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard
Quezon City
Philippines 1102

Connecting all Departments 723-0301 • 723-0101
Admission Office 725-2334
Fax 723-1199
Internet www.stluke.com.ph
E-mail info@stluke.com.ph

JOSE ABAD SANTOS
VICENTE LIM
JOSEFA LLANES ESCODA
JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA
EE674058
1000

It adapts
to your
company's
health care
budget

You don't have to spend hundreds of thousands of pesos in order to provide your employees emergency care, hospital confinement, dental care, out-patient consultation, treatment, or preventive health care. With MEDICard, you can custom-build your health plan, depending on your company's needs and resources.

MEDICard. Because your health and the health of your employees is your company's wealth.

℞ MEDICard

Flexible.
Accessible.
Affordable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OR VISIT: MEDICARD PHILIPPINES, INC.
9th Flr. Sagittarius Building, H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City • Tel. Nos.: 819-3471, 750-0575, 750-0598, 810-1503, 817-5136, 817-5127, 817-4985, 893-3543 • FAX: 810-3855
For member services outside Metro Manila: 1-800-1-888-9001, 1-800-1-888-9002, 1-800-1-888-9003, 1-800-1-888-9004
Website: http://www.medicardphils.com

Why women are better borrowers

(From page B5)

the borrowers are encouraged to form small help groups and under a group liability program, everybody is held responsible for individual repayment or default.

"This peer pressure on rule breakers and willful defaulters help ensure payment. You would be surprised because these women take every opportunity to show they can engage in small but meaningful businesses, save and pay their loans on time," says Sakay.

Under the PCFC program, borrowers also go through a process of social preparation to ensure that loans are put to good use.

Family planning is encouraged, savings are mandatory, and training on how to manage their livelihood is a must.

What usually happens after a successful micro finance availment is that the borrower, often a woman, who only wants to augment the household income, ends up as the main breadwinner for the family like in the case of Glora Manukan, says Sakay.

"Women are really the targets of microfinance because the target is supplementary income. This is suited to women's role in the family but they end up providing the main source of income," he notes.

Sakay sees a blight in the horizon for PCFC and its microfinance program.

The decision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to engage in the same micro lending would kill PCFC and endanger the microfinance program of the government, according to him.

The BSP will soon issue a new circular that will grant new banking licenses to non-government groups that would like to engage solely in micro financing.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura says micro lending would be a major thrust of the central bank this year.

As an incentive, the central bank would also open a rediscount window for micro financing. The BSP chief says the terms of the rediscount window could also be lower than the usual one percentage point above 91-day treasury bill rate.

This rate, says Sakay, is a subsidized rate and goes against the principles of lending at market rates.

He recalls that the Central Bank during the time of Marcos engaged in a similar program called Masagana 99 and some 200 rural banks that had participated collapsed.

"The move of the BSP could only lead to the demise of one of the few successful pro-poor programs implemented by the current administration," says Sakay.

Melito Salazar, a member of the Monetary Board, defends the BSP and says that prudential standards are being put in place to ensure that only qualified institutions could avail of the rediscount facility.

The BSP, he says, has supervised rural banks ever since and is thus, in the best position to craft a rediscount facility suited for micro finance activities of rural and cooperative banks.

From ...

(From page B5)

Benelux, France and Spain.

If last year's export numbers are any indication, GTEB's efforts are indeed paying off.

Garment exports to Europe rose last year by 16.21 percent to $373 million from $321 million in 1999, better than the industry's growth pace of 12.17 percent and the US growth rate of 11.6 percent last year.

The GTEB expects exports to Europe to grow by 16.4 percent this year to $445 million, which is more than three times the 5.4-percent growth rate projected for the entire industry.

The resurgent demand for Philippine apparel in Europe was well-timed in view of the projected decline in sales to the US.

Exports to the US are expected to increase by only 3 percent to $2.462 billion due to a slowdown in its economy.

Tax-exempt privileges, other benefits explained

By Czarina R. Miranda
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 8-2000 which talks on certain benefits or privileges received by employees which are not considered as items of income and are therefore, are not subject to tax.

For employers who are mandated by law to withhold the required taxes from income payments to their employees, the regulations may be seen as a further clarification to previously issued pronouncements on similar issues by the tax authorities which were deemed open to various interpretations. For the income recipients, the regulations come at a time when employees, both in the government and private sectors, seek further tax breaks in view of the country's present economic condition.

The RR amends pertinent provisions of RRs 2-98 and 3-98 with respect to "*De Minimis*" Benefits, Additional Compensation Allowance (ACA), Representation and Transportation Allowance (RATA) as well as Personnel Economic Relief Allowance (PERA)

'De minimis' benefits

Facilities and privileges of relatively small value (such as entertainment, medical services or so-called "courtesy discounts" on purchases), otherwise known as de minimis benefits, furnished or offered by an employer to his employees, are not considered as compensation subject to income tax and consequently to withholding tax, if such facilities are offered or furnished by the employer merely as means of promoting the health, goodwill, contentment, or efficiency of his employees.

RR 8-2000 enumerates the items that are considered under this category of non-taxable benefits as follows, as it applies to both managerial and rank and file personnel:

- Monetized unused vacation leave credits of employees, not exceeding ten (10) days during the year;
- Medical cash allowance to dependents of employees not exceeding P750 per employee per semester or P125 per month;
- Rice subsidy of P1,000 or one sack of 50-kg. rice per month amounting to not more than P1,000 [Prior to this RR, only rice subsidy of P350 per month was considered as de minimis.];
- Uniforms and clothing allowance not exceeding P3,000 per annum [The RR has now pegged an amount for uniform and clothing allowances to be considered as non-taxable benefits.];
- Actual yearly medical benefits not exceeding P10,000 per annum [Similar to uniform and clothing allowances, RR 8-2000 has now provided a ceiling for non-taxability of medical benefits given to employees.];
- Laundry allowance not exceeding P300 per month [The amount deemed as "de minimis" laundry allowances used to be P150 per month];
- Employees achievement awards, like for length of service or safety achievement, which must be in the form of a tangible personal property other than cash or gift certificate, with an annual monetary value not exceeding P10,000 received by the employee under an established written plan which does not discriminate in favor of highly paid employees [Prior to the RR, the monetary value of such awards should not exceed one-half (1/2) month of the recipient-employee's basic salary.];
- Gifts given during Christmas and major anniversary celebrations not exceeding P5,000 per employee per annum [The RR now provides for a ceiling for this kind of benefit.].
- Flowers, fruits, books or similar items given to employees under special circumstances--for instance, on account of illness, marriage, birth or a baby etc.; and,
- Daily meal allowance for overtime work not exceeding 25 percent of the basic minimum wage.

It is to be noted that under RR 8-2000, company picnics and sports tournaments in the Philippines which are participated in exclusively by the employees was excluded from the above enumeration although the same used to have been deemed as de minimis benefits under prior regulations.

Moreover, the new regulations provide further that the amount of de minimis benefits that conform to the ceiling or amounts indicated in the above enumeration will not be considered in determining the P30,000 ceiling of "other benefits" provided under Section 32 (B)(7)(e) of the Tax Code. Such "other benefits" would generally include the Christmas bonus, productivity incentive bonus, loyalty award, gifts in cash or in kind, among others. Prior to the new RR, the BIR held that de minimis benefits fall within the contemplation of "other benefits" and thus, are subject to the P30,000 threshold to be exempt from tax (e.g., BIR DA-127-03-01-00). With the recent RR, however, it is only when the benefits given are more than the prescribed ceilings, that the excess thereof shall be taxable to the employee only if such is beyond the P30,000 limit.

RATA and PERA

Prior to RR 8-2000, fixed or variable transportation, representation and other allowances which are received by a public officer or employee of a private entity, in addition to the regular compensation fixed for his position or office, is generally regarded as compensation subject to withholding tax. The new RR, however, clarifies that the RATA granted to public officers and employees under the General Appropriations Act and the PERA, which essentially constitute reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of government personnel's official duties, shall not be subject to income tax Accordingly, such benefits shall not be subject to withholding tax on compensation.

ACA

RR 8-2000 also provides that the additional compensation allowance (ACA) given to government personnel shall not be subject to withholding tax pending its formal integration into the basic pay of the recipient-employee. Consequently, beginning taxable year 2000, the ACA shall be classified as part of the earlier mentioned "other benefits" provided for in the Tax Code which are excluded from gross compensation income provided the total amount of such benefits do not exceed P30,000. This amendment introduced by RR 8-2000 covers ACA granted and paid to all officials and employees of the national government agencies, including state universities and colleges, government-owned and/or controlled corporations, government financial institutions and local government units.

It is to be noted, however, that to be non-taxable compensation income, the granting of RATA, PERA and ACA should still satisfy the following conditions:

- It is incurred for ordinary and necessary traveling and representation or entertainment expenses paid or incurred by the employee in the pursuit of the trade, business or profession; and,
- The employee is required to account/liquidate for the foregoing expenses in accordance with the specific requirements of substantiation for each category of expenses pursuant to Section 34 of the Tax Code. The excess of actual expenses over advances made shall constitute taxable income if such amount is not returned to the employer. Reasonable amounts of reimbursements/advances, however, for traveling and entertainment expenses which are pre-computed on a daily basis and are paid to an employee while he is on an assignment or duty need not be subject to the requirements of substantiation and to withholding.

RR 8-2000 was published on Nov. 28, 2000 became effective on Dec. 13. 2000.

HONDA
ALL YOURS!
City
FREE
• 1 Year Comprehensive Insurance
• LTO Registration
• Exciting Freebies
ALL YOURS PRICE P489,000 GL M/T
NO EXTRA COST!
All-in!
CHECK OUT THE ALL-YOURS, ALL-IN DEALS FOR THE...
HR-V HIGH RIDER VEHICLE
CR-V
ACCORD
Plus Cash Incentives
SO HURRY!
Until Jan.31,2001 only!

All regular models are included in the promo.
Excludes CR-V special edition variants.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3572 Series of 2000

For details, call or visit any of the following Honda dealerships nationwide.
Honda Cars Makati, Inc. Magallanes Commercial Center, Makati City Tel. Nos: 852-4181 to 82 Fax: 852-1158
Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. 598 EDSA, Balintawak, Kalookan City Tel. Nos.: 360-5701 to 24 Fax: 361-8445
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc 141 Quezon Ave., Quezon City Tel. Nos: 712-6860 to 61 Fax: 732-8550
Honda Cars Pasig E. Rodriguez Ave. cor. Calle Industria, Libis, Quezon City Tel. Nos.: 634-2730 to 34 Fax: 637-2082
Honda Cars Alabang Madrigal Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Road cor. Investment Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. Nos: 807-7701, 807-7078; 809-4560 Fax: 809-5052
Honda Cars Manila Paz M. Guanzon Ave. cor. Quirino Ave., Metro Manila Tel. Nos. 562-4548 to 52 Fax 562-4548 loc. 130
Honda Cars Shaw Shaw Blvd. cor. Pilar St., Mandaluyong City Tel. Nos.: 717-1681 to 85 Fax: 726-7873
www.hondaphil.com

Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan Tel. Nos. (075) 522-1488 to 89 Fax (075) 522-1490
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tel. Nos. (032) 231-3502 to 08 Fax (032) 231-4488
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc. Brgy. San Nicolas, San Pablo City, Laguna Tel. Nos. (049) 562-7713 to 14 Fax (049) 562-7712
Honda Cars Davao, Inc. Cabaguio Ave., Davao City Tel. Nos. (082) 221-7406 to 07, 221-7042, 221-4129 Fax (082) 221-7407; 222-2171
Honda Cars Negros Occidental cor. Hacienda Jose Maria Tabay, National Highway, Talisay, Negros Occidental Tel. Nos. (034) 441-1271 to 75 Fax (034) 441-1270
Honda Cars Cagayan Zone 1, Lower Bulua, National Highway, Cagayan de Oro City Tel. Nos. (088) 858-4010 to 12, (08822) 737-635, 737-045 Fax (088) 858-4015
Honda Cars Pampanga, Inc. Brgy. San Agustin, McArthur Highway, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. Nos. (045) 963-5554, 963-5119, 963-5506 Fax (045) 963-5554
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc. Brgy. Sta. Cruz, McArthur Highway, Tarlac, Tarlac Tel. Nos. (045) 982-8002 to 06 Fax (045) 982-8007
Honda Cars General Santos, Inc. Jose Catolico Ave., Lagao, Gen. Santos City Tel. Nos. (083) 553-0798 to 97, 301-3108 to 09 Fax (083) 553-0797

HONDA

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) ℻ 8974808
PASAY ROAD, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8442417 ☎ 8432771 ☎ 8432780 ℻ 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 ℻ 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 ℻ 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 ℻ 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 ℻ 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
₱200 per column centimeter ₱55 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Lic. PT/Reflex 367-7155

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

Home-Hotel Srvs 0917-4308796

RLX 4218394 09198457226

09194056183 CHERRY

ASK GEORGE M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME

EXOTIC STYLE M 4376220

H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Male #16 Palanan 7320659

MASSAGE (0919)433-3191 GEM

•NewMabuhay Msg4383570

REFLEX 0919-2395660 Jojo

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

Scorpion Massg 4372542

8180131/09197325729 M/F

D' Millenium Reflex Home/Hotel Srvcs 9347633

Learn Reflexology And Iridology In 6 Days For Reservation Call Dr. Uy 7330443 Cell 0917 4051539

Reflex Carla 7164898

REFLEX LUIS 09193451043

TUTORIAL LESSONS

• Art Lessons 910-0942 •

LALUZ 5268216/5268270

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

We have nurse oldsitter homecare9270418:4536305

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

LOW RATE MAID 9287096

LIPAT BAHAY

800 6W 9344988

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

9206784/4540520

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

L-BAHAY 731-24-09

LIPAT AGAD 5220956

•LIPAT•731-6833

MISCELLANEOUS

Attn Candidate Accept
PRINTING JOBS
Call 936-8089 ; 983-0899

CARPET CLEANING

Carpet/Sofa Clean 8207068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESD'L

MANILA

Comm'l Bldg nr Luneta & Roxas Blvd P520T Income Monthly T3730597 Noli

Rush Bacood Sta. Mesa 1100 sqm @15M Neg. 713-9942 Pgr 1441-101829

VARIOUS AREAS

CONDO MKTI.
ROCKWELL
5M 7M 12M & up
Call Lito 800-4748
0917-3752258

AYALA
Greenfields
Prime View Lots 8T/sqm
Lito 800-4748
0917-3752258

AYALA
Westgrove
Sta. Rosa 7T/350sqm & up
0917-3752258

AYALA
Ferndale-QC
H&L 5M & up
800-4748/0917-3752258

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

P952T Cash/Term 8054686

PARANAQUE

Near NAIA Negotiable Contact Mrs. Bay Tel. 821-8925

Tahanan Pque Very Good Price 776-6018 821-6624

QUEZON CITY

Nr Rbinson.SMFview 260m² only P980T "cheap"4140418

BF QC P16M Nice 9323892

Mira Nila QC
5br 5t&b 3stry 354m²
6.9M 928-9714 / 927-9609

RIZAL

3BR 214m² 2car grge San Jose Rodriguez 649-2298

FREE of Flood & Faultline Ridgemont Exec Vill P1.9M

nr Ortigas Ext
CAINTA NEW FRENCH
STRONG 3BR Bung 2 c'port
Lot:150m² 9488240/9334971

PROVINCIAL

Camella Barcelona Cavite • 874-1301 873-9956 •

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775/8678942

LOT

PASAY

1BR furnished G-H Sunvar bear Buendia LRT 12T/mo 67sqm Alan 818-4277

QUEZON CITY

335m² Lot near
MINDANAO AVE
P9T/m² 50% Down 5yrs
3720888/3720825/3720869

Loyola Grand Villas
LA401 sqm FA 460sqm
435-0005 / 426-0835

Nr SM Fview 50-100m² Co Cash/Term 372-0888/25

SAN JUAN

Luna Mencias nr Araulo 715M VL 29Th/m² 4157979

PROVINCIAL

• Tagaytay 4 Lots •
Near Rotonda 8741301

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

1BR Condo 4Sale 8212970

Makati Condos 2Bdrm Good Price 776-6018 821-6624

PARANAQUE

2BR2TB Carport Semifurn P850T Manhattan Villas Better Living 09176011115

QUEZON CITY

Condo Cubao "New"
P1.3M "EZ" Terms nego.
9126976 9124428 4381480

Fairview 3BR 2TB 1CG Rene 150347915 / 4382966

Nr. Visayas/QC Hall P2M 2BR Attic 2TB 24-Hr Sec Nice 454-8562/454-8528

Rent/Sale Mariposa Town House 3br 3tb 724-8729

MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE PARK MAKATI Soon to Open 671-4421

Loy Mkna Lot 8386645/52

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Agricultural land 28has. w/2000 fruit bearing mangoes, fish pond etc. P300/m² Direct buyers only T(044)463-8222 Ragle Off Hr.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

161 Briones 7Ave., CC 3620065

HOUSE

MAKATI

4402-B Dayap St. Palanan Makati Call 834-0580 / 043-7780169

QUEZON CITY

3BR2TB 10A Malumanay St. Sikatuna 15T/mo 8184277

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

Bnew 3BR Townhouse 2TB Grge P18T/mo c/o Lyn •5320141 09175235241•

MAND CITY EXOTIVE MANTION 4BR 2TB W/ DEN BABY 531-8261

SAN JUAN

STATE CENTER ORTIGAS 86 SQM ++ OFC#242-1521

BEDSPACE

P875/mo. AIRCON
Call 454-4005 / 911-3361

LADIES MAKATI 8963993

LOAN & MORTGAGE

16 Monthly OC=3730239/40 Las Pinas=5433191 & 9895 Makati=8976644 to 46 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

Fast Loan R/Estate & Car Financing Avail 4154936

BUSINESS RENTAL

P1,800/mo. Stalls
Sn. Andres 400-6420/23

P5,500/mo.
Cubao 454-4005 . 911-3361

CITIBANK TOWER
Office Space 305.45 sqm
Mkt City, Fully Furnished
Tel. 636-1610 / 11 Ofc Hrs

PSE WEST TOWER
Office Space 220 sqm
Ortigas Center, Pasig
Tel. 636-1610 / 11 Ofc Hrs

STRATA 2000
Office Space 500 sqm
Emerald Ave. Pasig City
Tel. 636-1610 / 11 Ofc Hrs

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

[illegible]

HONDA

May 2000 Civic 1.5 A/T LXi 6K P540K 719-4311

HYUNDAI

'94 Grace 215T 7313492

'97 Grace 268T 731-3492

98 Starex 6377396/6313496

KIA

'96 Besta 240T 7313492

'96 Pregio 330T 7313492

97 Besta2.2 200T 3739938

'98 Besta 275T 7313492

MAZDA

96 MAZDA 323 A1 9318609

MITSUBISHI

LANCER BOX TYPE 1600 83 MODEL F-LDED 75T FIX. CELL 09174450671 TIM

94 Lancer EL 175T 3739938

96 Mitsubishi Pajero Green •874-1301 873-9956•

98 L300 6313496/6377396

NISSAN

SALE: NISSAN SENTRA Lec '96 fully loaded Taxi w/line contact 09193761651

TOYOTA

'95 XL Red P180T 9413841

PUYAT SPORTS

needs an

HRD MANAGER

Less than 45 years old, now an Asst. HRD Manager or performs the duties of said position.
Must be highly capable as trainor and administrator.

Send applications w/ picture, stating salary desired & bio-data to:
The Executive Vice-President, Puyat Sports
2nd Floor, Anson Arcade II Building,
A. Arnaiz Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Applications and interviews will be regarded as confidential.

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

TOYOTA

'97 HILUX Double Cab 413-3956 / 678-5050 Alfred

98 Tamaraw LS P-up w/2 Rear Drs 21.557Km 225T Call Beverly 635-2823 / 638-3858

BOATS

LCT 750 DWT price 10M neg Call 7222044/7210789

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHEAP VANS 9344988

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew L300 8254058 8261045

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

CARS•VANS•8978113•8955888 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8969956

HIACE L300 URVAN 8257135

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

Sunflower Transport
Starex, L300, Coaster Bus
Cars 637-7396 631-3496

TOYCO Trans Self drive CARS VANS 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

•Car;Vars4535288;9296250

MB E200 4535288;9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

1.5% w/o taking car OR/CR R/EstateLoan LO%4154936

16 Monthly OC=3730239/40 Las Pinas=5433191 & 9895 Makati=8976644 to 46 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Genset for Sale 450 KVA Caterpillar 220-440V 3Phase Call 453-8030 / 79

PETS

PregnantGDaneHarle 4140418

LAB 2½ MOS. SIRE FR FINLAND ºF BLK & YLW 7560056

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard P25T & P30T All Marble Top New 781-9453

B.Table B'new w/accessories •(02)8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard, P-Pong, Foosball, Hockey Tables Call 367-3784 to 88

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

TOYS

TY Beanie Babies / Buddies
Call 713-9730

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
others, accepts pawn CALL
09178142309/7269687

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

Unused Educ Plan 6469097

H.S./COLLEGE
G Lopez 7137284

ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
T-804-0484 / 834-2886

We Want To Buy SULFANILAMIDE SOLUTION call/text 0919-5544863 call 09123800303

MISCELLANEOUS

100% Thai Silk From Bangkok Very Nice Quality 1ply & 2 ply Wholesale & Retail at LOW PRICES for Orders & Inq. Call 410-3427

FIGHTING COCK

Rdy2Fight 30 Kamuning RdQC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

BEAUTICIAN 8340384 ASAP

• WANTED •
SECRETARY w/ Accounting Background Bring Bio-data 8101 Pearl Drive Ortigas Cntr Pasig City

CASHIERS nee: :mmediatel, O.C. res. pref 2nd yr coll • Call 823-4573 to 74 •

MAIDS Direct Hire 7284971

WANTED
EXPD HAIRDRESSER & MANICURIST T7250882/ 4155507 look for CATHY

1 Plantsadora w/ NBI clear. 4363434 / 9328970 Myra

MALE/FEMALE

3Tchn I, Items Nos. 30267, 30268, 30269, Div. of Pasig City and San Juan, Sta Lucia H.S., B.S.E., PBET/LET Eligible

A multi-national co. seeking for overachievers w/ an excellent compensation package 25yrs old & up Send resume: CBC 849 M. Jhocson St. Sampaloc Mla

CARE GIVER T-5280730

Experience for Secretary Preferably Living near San Juan Call 724-6735 / 7057

★IMMIGRATE★
LIVE and WORK in CANADA
8175511/8944950

Ofc Staff 9134470 Treb

OFFICE STAFF PLS CALL 7366660 LOOK FOR MS RHEA

OSPITAL NG MAKATI
ENT-HNS (accredited)
accepting 1st yr Res.
CALL 8930692 loc. 215

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JCM Pawnshop Farmers Market Cubao QC Auction Sale Jan 25 2001 2pm. All unredeemed Articles from February 2000 to Aug 2000 Lic Auctioneer J Zamora

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Cash/Consign 3738821

CONDENSED MILK 250KGS BURGER PATTY TEL 2870022

Earn PPP. Absolutely No Selling/Capital. Call 912-0006 or 1388-04097

★IMMIGRATE★
LIVE and do business in CANADA 8175511/8944950

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ESSENTIAL SEMINAR
FOR THOSE WHO INTEND
TO WORK ABROAD
Phone: 891 5602 & 891 5632
OFFICE HOURS: 9am-6pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

Imptd Pearl Shake Powder We do Provcial Delivry Call 781-1883 or 85 Georgette

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN Term Must be Employed 2929084

RTW Cash/Term 7299681

RTW P28 up Call 723-2959

PERSONAL

Thank You St. Peregrino & St. Jude- Vicky Manuel

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

WANTED

Systems Analyst/Programmer

Qualifications:

- proficient in SQL (preferably SQL Server 7.0)
- proficient in ASP programming with VB-Script
- knowledge of VB COM objects an advantage
- at least 2 years work experience
- fluent in written and spoken English
- willing to relocate to Denmark

Duration of contract: Six months, initially, with possible extension to one year afterwards. Please send CV (emphasis on projects handled and software used) to lucy.tan@iapso.org.

Deadline of application: January 17, 2001.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF QUEZON
MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: January 12, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 01 362 04 SDA-Q for the *Construction of SINDACAR - BAGVIL Inter-ARC Barangay Road with 52.0 l.m. Bridge* located at SINDACAR ARC, Guinayangan, Quezon. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Guinayangan and implementing partner of the DAR for the ARCDP invite sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
	Road Component	
100	Clearing & Grubbing	96,324.00 sq.m.
102	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	25,490.00 cu.m.
103	Structure Excavation	364.10 cu.m.
104	Embankment	16,881.00 cu.m.
105	Sub-Base Preparation	81,000.00 cu.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	9,619.00 cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	9,619.00 cu.m.
311	PCCP (0.15m thick)	891.00 ln.m.
404	Reinforcing Steel	12,730 kgs.
405	Structural Concrete	137.40 cu.m.
500-A	RCCP (0.60M dia.)	382.00 ln.m.
500-B	RCCP (0.90M dia.)	144.00 ln.m.
500-C	RCCP (1.2M dia.)	70.00 ln.m.
504	Grouted Riprap (for hewadwall)	549.50 cu.m.
	Bridge Component	
103	Structure Excavation	150 cu.m.
104	Embankment	2,500.00 cu.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	100.00 cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	60.00 cu.m.
400 (15)	Pre-cast Concrete Test Pile	16.00 ln.m.
400 (22)	Pre-Cast Concrete Piles	576.00 ln.m.
404	Reinforcing Steel	81,305.00 kgs.
405	Structural Concrete (Class A)	333 cu.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	500 cu.m.
Spl. A	Painting & Project Sign	L.S.

Bid Security P700,000.00
Bid closing Date February 12, 2001, 2:00 PM
Project Duration 490 Calendar Days

Minimum Equipment's Required

Two (2) units Bulldozer-owned. One (1) unit bulldozer - leased; One (1) unit Road Grader-owned; One (1) unit Road Grader - leased; One (1) unit Vibratory (15 ton min) Road Roller-owned/; One (1) unit Vibratory (15 ton min) - leased; One (1) unit Loader-owned; Four (4) units Dump Truck-owned; Two (2) units Dumptrucks-leased; One (1) unit Water truck-owned; One (1) unit bagger Concrete mixer; One (1) unit vibratory sreed; One (1) unit u-crane with diesel hammer-leased.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting January 15, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of seven thousand pesos only (P7,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **February 5, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

*All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Guinayangan, Quezon province on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) HON. MANUEL M. BUTARDO
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.

Visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

OBITUARY

SOTERO T. SEGUI, Sr.

Born in June 29, 1914 and passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 7, 2001 at Tuguegarao, Cagayan, at the age of 86.

His bereaved widow **Josefina Villaflor-Segui**; children **Vicky** and **Manny Calizo**, **Sotero, Jr.** (Nonong), **Nona Socorro**, **Nena** and **Orly Malonzo**, **Nini** and **Nilbert Rafer**, and **Antonio**; his grandson **Cris Tagamolila**; grandchildren **Lorena**, **Bonnie**, **Eilro**, **Oriel**, **Naireen** and **Nevin** request the prayers of his business associates and the pious reader for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Daily Mirror Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday morning, January 14 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary to proceed to the Holy Cross Memorial Park.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) 8974808
PASAY ROAD, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8442417 ☎ 8432771 ☎ 8432780 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P200 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

In Loving Memory on the
1st Death Anniversary of

Judge Benjamin A.G. Vega

(Retired)

Masses will be offered today, January 12, 2001
at the following Churches:

Good Shepherd Parish .... 6:00 AM
Fairview, Quezon City
Holy Trinity Parish .... 6:00 AM
Ideal Subdivision, Quezon City
St. Peter Parish .... 6:00 AM
Commonwealth, Quezon City
Sacred Heart Parish .... 6:00 AM
Kamuning, Quezon City
St. Paul the Apostle Parish .... 6:00 AM
Timog Avenue, Quezon City
Christ the King Mission Seminary .... 6:30 AM
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City
St. Joseph the Worker Parish .... 7:00 AM
Palanan, Makati City

His family request those whose lives he touched and the reader to pray for his eternal happiness.

Beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend

Dr. JUVENAL CAÑIZARES TRINIDAD

Born June 04, 1929

Passed on to the realm of Spirit on January 11, 2001

His wife **Dr. Lourdes Estrada Trinidad**; children **Drs. Leila** and **Ramon Rene Halum** and **Dr. Jaime** and **Marion Trinidad**; grandchildren **Leslie**, **Justin**; **Maycie** and **Ronel**; sisters **Agnes T. Tolosa** and **Doris T. Gamalinda** hope you will join their thoughts of love and prayer to support him in his final journey.

His body lies in state at Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Chapel, Katipunan, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 14, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"...absent
with
the
body
to
be
present
with
the
Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

FLORENTINA M. STA. ANA

of Pasig City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 9, 2001 at the age of 75.

Her children **Joey**, **Jay** and **Letty**; daughters-in-law **Rochelle** & **Jane**; grandchildren **Pristine**, **Gio** & **Bea**; sisters **Nanding** & **Letty**; brother **Guring**; relatives and friends, request renders to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at #5 Ruby St., Doña Juana, Rosario.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at San Antonio Abad Parish, Maybunga, Pasig.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

"Let me abide in your tent forever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings."
Psalm 61

JESUS C. SINGSON

of Lingayen, Pangasinan

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 10, 2001 at the age of 82.

His beloved bereaved are:

Wife - **TERESA RAMOS SINGSON**

Children - **MODESTO** and **VIVIAN**
JESSE CALIXTO
SHARON

Grandchildren - **ISSA**
MOVIN
TOVIN
AIRESE

Brothers and Sisters -

CONCORDIA	**ALEJANDRO**	**LUCIA**
MERCED	**AURELIA**	**FIDEL**
TIRSO	**GABRIEL**	**CALIXTO, JR (†)**
PRIMITIVA	**EVANGELINE (†)**	**MELECIO**

His remains lie in state at their residence at #34 Avenida Rizal, East Poblacion, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 14, 2001 after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Three Kings Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Lingayen.

In Loving Memory of

RTC JUDGE ALEJANDRO "CELING" MERCADO VELEZ, SR. (RET)

of Cagayan de Oro City

who peacefully joined his Creator on January 9, 2001 at the age of 72.

Known for his integrity, public service, and love for his family leaves a legacy of truth and fairness.

His loving wife **Ester "Tellie" Gabor Velez**; children **Marichu**, **Ike** (✞), **Orla**, **Ana**, **Andy** and **Tony**; sons-in-law **Rosendo**, **Ray** and **Pit**; daughters-in-law **Au**, **Jessica** and **Raisa**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at the Divine Shepherd Memorial Gardens after the 8:00 a.m. Mass thereat.

DR. IRINEO VARGAS GUERRERO

of Naga City and Virac, Catanduanes
UST MEDICINE CLASS '49

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 9, 2001
at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Elisa M. dela Torre**; children **Alex**, **Arleen** and **Vernee Nieva**, **Leni**, **Sherry**, **Ernie** (✞), **Rechie** and **Rudy Remigio**; grandchildren **Shalom**, **JonLyle**, **Ariel**, **Rodel** and **Nicolas** and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Imperial, 107 Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at Sto. Niño Memorial Park. Mass at 10:00 a.m., Peñafrancia Basilica Minore followed by military honors.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

"I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the death of

FR. WILLIAM HENNESSEY

who died in Kinogitan, Misamis Oriental on January 10th, 2001
at the age of 88.

Fr. Hennessey was the longest serving Columban in the Philippines having spent all of his 61 years here. He arrived in December 1939 and was first assigned to Tangub in Misamis Occidental until 1941. He then became the local superior in Mindanao and was stationed in Ozamis City during and after the war (1941-'51). From 1951 he was Director of the Philippine Region and built the Central House in Singalong, Manila. He returned in 1959 to Mindanao and served in the parishes of Kinogitan (1959-'75) and Balingoan (1975-'94) in the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. His years of retirement were spent in Kinogitan, Misamis Oriental where he will be laid to rest. He is remembered by all Columbans with affection and gratitude especially for his leadership of the Society in the Philippines for many years.

Fr. Hennessey now lies at rest in Kinogitan, Misamis Oriental. The funeral Mass will be held on Monday, 15th January 2001 at 2:30 p.m. at the Holy Child Parish Church, Kinogitan.

May he rest in peace.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE

www.mysecuresign.com

ePLDT

With mySecureSign, you're very sure it's secure.

ePLDT is the Philippines' first and only certified VeriSign partner. VeriSign, the world's largest and most trusted internet security services provider, uses Digital Certificates to reliably identify users online. Digital Certificates, unique digital IDs which identify a person through public or private encryption codes, are used in networks to establish authentication and privacy between networked users. Now that these are recognized by the Philippine e-commerce law, they can be issued to your buyers, suppliers, customers and employees to give them access to sensitive information and to enter into binding and non-repudiable transactions online. With mySecureSign, the safety of all your transactions on the internet, from e-mail to banking and financial services to purchases, are sure to be secure. For inquiries, email us at care@mysecuresign.com

mySecureSign
an affiliate of ePLDT

VeriSign

Don't miss the
BEST
Miss Saigon
EVER!
CCP MAIN THEATER
Tuesday-Sunday 8pm
Saturday-Sunday 2pm, 8pm
TICKETS AT ALL TICKET WORLD OUTLETS 8915610
CCP BOX OFFICE 8323704
Discounts for groups of 20 or more: 4007844, 9221740 • 4332226

FRIDAY
JAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Home LIFESTYLE Trend Spotting
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

24th Anniversary Celebration
THOUSANDS OF LUCKY WINNERS
Happy 24 Pensyonados
FAMILY CASHAGANA
REGALO ORA MISMO
OVER 2 MILLION IN TOTAL PRIZES!
Pensyon Raffle Grande
PARA SA MASAGANANG BUHAY, UGALIING MAMILI SA
Masagana SUPERSTORE
PRESYO! KAYANG KAYA!
SEE POSTERS & LEAFLETS FOR DETAILS

Our stinking lifestyle

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

VENTURING out of the house, you never really know what you'll be up against—could be a wayward bus, could be a bomb, or if you have the luck of a Rosanna Fores and a Bettina Aboitiz, it could be Miriam.

Last week, I had far better luck at least than Rosanna and Bettina that day. I ran into trash—a C-5-long stretch of it, mounds of them by the roadside unfolding as far as the eye could see, some wind-blown loaded plastic bags of them straying onto the path of my speeding car. Like any full-blooded Metro Manilan, I am immune to the sight of uncollected garbage but running over an assortment of the day's debris and hearing the crunch of tin cans under my tires was, uh, a novel experience. It was pathetic at best—your first reality check in the morning. Jejomar Binay, who denies there's a garbage crisis in the Metro, doesn't have to crane his neck to see these mountains of filth on the road.

While the country is hooked on the telenovela in the Senate, Metro Manila stinks. How symbolic.

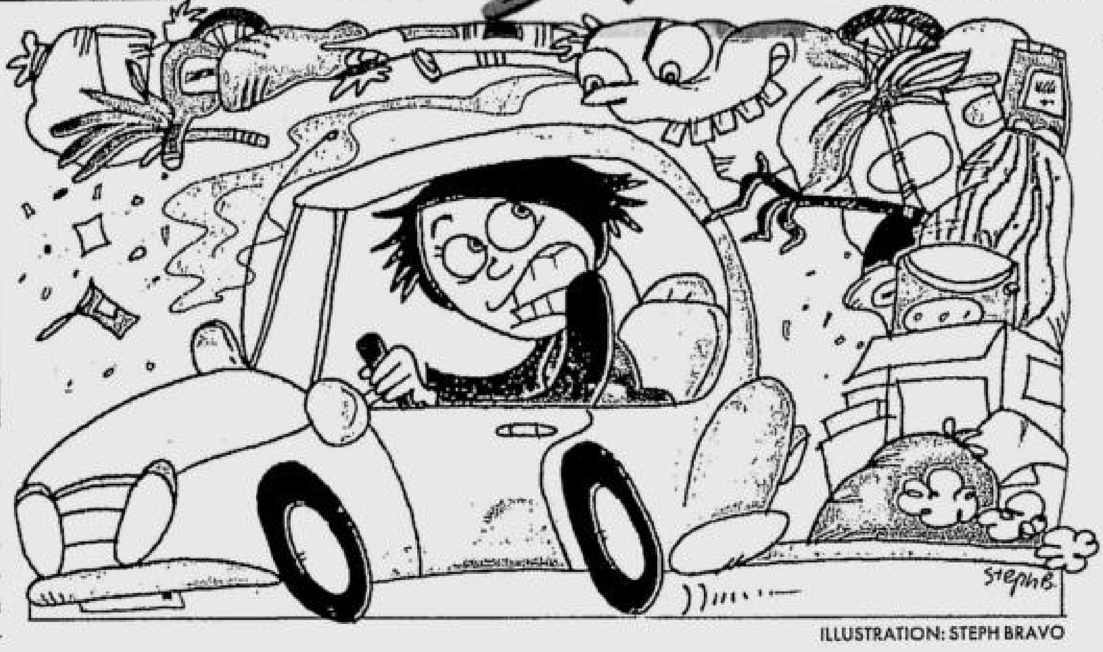


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The Philippines is one of the most lucrative markets for perfume in Asia. Ironically, our city now smells really bad

2,000 tons of trash

The flood of trash suddenly shares top billing with The Trial at the dining tables of Ladies Who Lunch. What karma—your leftover *balut souffle* is bound to catch up with you on the highway. True, techno-plastic in bright citrus colors is fast replacing black in fashion, but we never dreamt it would be our streets that would be wearing them, courtesy of shopping bags turned into trash bags. Now you miss the SM blue—at least that's less obtrusive than the yellows and reds of the "*palengke.*"

As you drive home at night, the darkness of C-5 hides the phalanx of plastic trash. But it's the stench that takes over, seeping even through your tightly shut car windows. And you see the residents taking the matter into their hands—they're burning the trash—so columns of fire light your way on the highway.

With at least 2,000 tons of daily garbage stranded in Metro Manila, since no dumpsite is available and the mayors are going their separate ways in scrounging around for their own dumpsite, we are suddenly confronted by our stinking lifestyle.

The irony is—after the far-richer Japan and Hong Kong, the Philippines, or at least Metro Manila, is the most lucrative market for perfume in Asia. We can give Singapore or Thailand a good fight. It is for a reason that Filipino lifestyle journalists always get invited to perfume or beauty product launches abroad—our spending pattern when it comes to perfume and toiletries is encouraging for luxury goods manufacturers (even long before *jueteng* money). It is also no accident that after a world perfume launch in either Europe or the United States, the next launch is Asia. Or sometimes, the world launch is held in Hong Kong or Singapore, even before the US. This is because even without counting China, Asia—specifically Southeast Asia—is a most active market for perfume and beauty products.

Civic awareness

Now what has the Filipina's addiction to luxury perfume brands got to do with garbage? Like comparing apples and oranges? A great deal. Filipinos have clean homes (even in squatter areas), cleaner bodies, but dirty neighborhoods.

"It's because once we step out of the house, we feel that public space is the preserve of the state. So we don't care," a friend in government service wisely observes.

Public space is remote from ours. Civic consciousness is even more remote. I can't forget a childhood anecdote recalled for us by our colleague **Berry Pelaez Marfori**, the youngest of statesman **Emmanuel Pelaez**. She said that when she was barely 4, while in the car with her folks, she got a tongue-lashing from her dad when he saw her throw a candy wrapper out the window. On the spot she got a lecture on civic responsibility. At 4 years old. But then her dad's species could be nearly extinct.

Over dinner this week, I got an enlightening dose from an ex-government technocrat who said, "Manila Bay has the distinction of being the single largest garbage space in the world.

"Unlike in other countries, garbage disposal here is generally free, the responsibility of government with little resources," he said.

In contrast, other countries have recycling centers—a joint venture of government and private business—where communities pay for the maintenance of the recycling system. Here, it's the hauling of garbage that is big business (more than enough to pay for the Missus' designer clothes and jewelry); what happens from there seems nobody's business.

Mobiles vs man

Landfills and dumpsites, without the proper infrastructure, he said, only pollute the soil and water system. This is what could happen in Semirara Island, with its waters rich in marine life and coral reef. Burning trash, like in C-5, only releases toxic wastes in the environment.

"In the US, most cities have recycling as a joint venture of the government whose equity is either in cash, land or administrative rules," said my source, "and the private business who provides the logistics, such as truck operators or haulers, depot experts—their equity being both money and services—and then, there are the buyers of recycled materials, such as paper manufacturers, aluminum or steel makers.

"Also part of the venture are the public stakeholders from the community itself, such as restaurant owners. These potential polluters are given incentives to do recycling. Another venture partner can be the equipment suppliers who'll provide the recycling technology and training."

He said it could be a multimillion-dollar business. Arizona, for instance, exports recycled materials to Mexico which ships them back as finished goods to the community.

"When you recycle garbage," he said, "there's no need to tax the earth's resources—no need to cut down trees for paper, no need to open new mines for you have discarded steel and metal. We preserve the earth's natural cycle."

Japan and Singapore, for instance, expand their land area through reclamation using nontoxic landfill from wastes.

What struck me was what he added: in five years' time or less, our cell phones and other electronic gadgets will outnumber us humans. "And these are nonrecyclable (the cell phones, not the humans) so far, and where do we dump them? The Mindanao deep is an open receptacle, if we don't watch out," he said. Now it's not only my unfinished *souffle* but also my phone that's a foreboding presence.

So why can't we massively recycle like other countries?

"Corruption," he said. "Public officials are more interested in the importation of equipment or in the hauling of garbage, where the money is. Garbage disposal is no serious agenda."

So you see, it's not only our garbage that stinks.

We need a long-term waste-management program that will not be the cash cow of politicians. The electorate must show these officials that garbage and the environment comprise a national agenda that could bring their downfall.

Banished Rosanna and Bettina

I got to talk to the suddenly famous Rosanna Fores who described what being singled out before nationwide TV felt like. "The moment I was made to stand, I felt the blood rushing to my head. How embarrassing, I thought, what would my family say?" But then, she said, she gained inner strength shortly after that.

Their seating, she said, must have been fate. In fact, Bettina was supposed to be seated behind her, not beside her. Rosanna was supposed to be seated in between **Dante Jimenez** and **Lauro Vizconde** but Mr. Vizconde didn't show up so Bettina asked to take his seat, and the rest, as they say, is Trial history.

After the incident, Rosanna said she and Bettina got an outpouring of support from friends, strangers, even through text messages. They have yet to get a nasty comment about their side, she said. One even joked it must have been Bettina's hair highlight that caught you-know-who's eye. (Hmm, let's not get into Trial hairdos.)

Rosanna, who's also a businesswoman, is active in the Forbes barangay like Bettina. Of this experience and the national attention, she could only say, "I pray that I can rise to the challenge. In God's way, something good must be meant to come out from all this."

Rosanna said that by now all her four kids have gotten used to seeing the footage replayed over and over on TV. Young as they are, they know what it's all about—and what it's for.

"I tell them I'm doing all this for them."

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

Sleek & Sporty Starex
DASHIELD
Multi-layered dashboard cover with UV inhibitors
1013 EDSA (Near Veteran's Village Entrance), Quezon City
Telephone nos. 3722464 • 4157837 • 3723640
*AVAILABLE FOR MOST CAR MODELS
PATENTED

freshaire
EASY TO JOIN
EASY TO WIN PROMO
WE'RE GIVING AWAY 1,000+ PRIZES!
With one (1) raffle stub for every service,
you have a chance to win free services every month
and valuable prizes every quarter.
It's so easy to join & easy to win!
12 Monthly Draws 3 Quarterly Draws 1 Grand Draw
freshaire
The Original Hair Straightening Specialist
See shop posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1331 Series of 2000

MANDY
NAVASERO
ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY
invites you to sit for your
CAMPAIGN PORTRAITURE EXECUTIVE PORTRAITS FAMILY PICTURES
PRODUCT SHOTS FOR ADVERTISERS MANUFACTURERS AND
EXPORTERS FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY, INDUSTRIAL,
ARCHITECTURAL, AERIAL, UNDERWATER, TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY,
FASHION & GLAMOUR STUDIO OR ON LOCATION
WEDDINGS (STILLS & VIDEO) SCHOOL ANNUAL
PAPARAZZI VESTS
with embroidered party logos • names stickers • posters • with graphic design • printing
FROM 135 MM TO 120 MM TO 4 x 5 CAMERA FORMAT
A GOOD PICTURE IS OUR BUSINESS
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY
SUMMER WORKSHOP, BATCH 2001
1935 DOMINGA ST NEAR COR SEN GIL PUYAT AVE. 1300 PASAY CITY
TEL NOS. 522-1901 522-1905, 522-5185, 522-5189 CF. 0917-534-4051

FERSAL
APARTELLE
TOURIST INN
Fully Furnished * Clean * Nice Rooms
₱400 to ₱1,300.00
Disc. on Wkly / Mo. * 11th DAY FREE
Tel. No. 911-2161 • Fax (632) 913-6078

107 Neptune Street Makati City 1201 (Tel (632) 897-9123 Fax (632) 897-9107	245 P. Tuazon Street Cubao, Quezon City Tel (632) 912-8000 Fax (632) 913-6078	130 Kalayaan Avenue Diliman, Quezon City Tel (632) 924-2689 Fax (632) 925-3205	49 Annapolis Street Cubao, Quezon City Tel (632) 912-5852 Fax (632) 911-3418

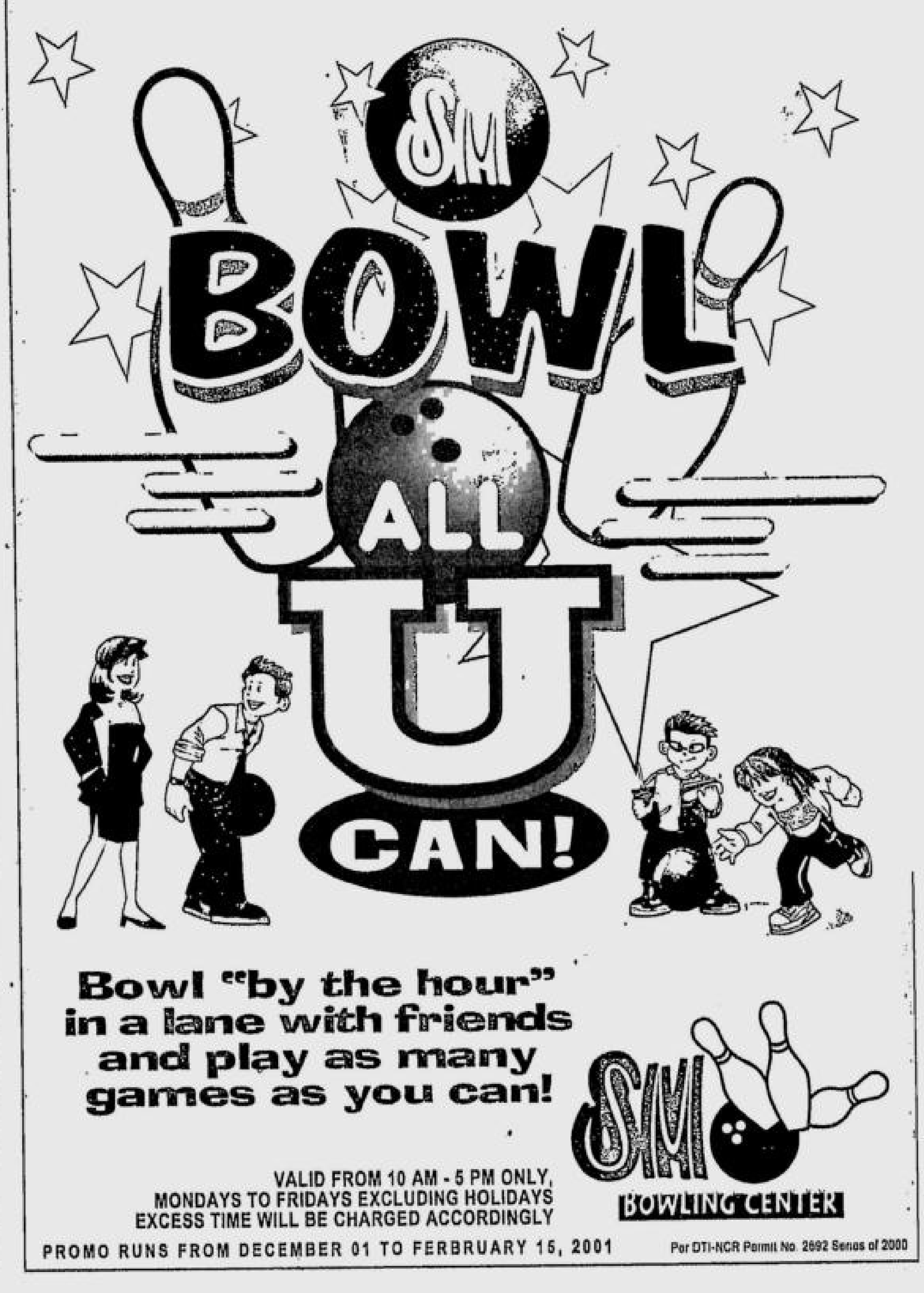
E-mail: fersal@skyinet.net

New Jett ATMOR
Fully Automatic
Shower Heater!
The only water heater with
the German Standard for
Quality Manufacturing
ISO 9002
CALL
723-00-32 for Dealer Inquiries
Other No's: 415-93-81/ 415-93-75
Cebu : 344-33-44
JETT
THE WATER HEATER COMPANY
Free Installation & Free Lifetime Home Service for residents of Metro Manila, Metro Cebu & Baguio.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND MUCH TO AVAIL
OF HIGH-QUALITY SKIN & SLIMMING TREATMENTS
Extended Promo until Jan 15 only
Avail of ANY PROGRAM and get FREE
10 Gift Certificates (worth P 500 each)
which you can give away as gifts!

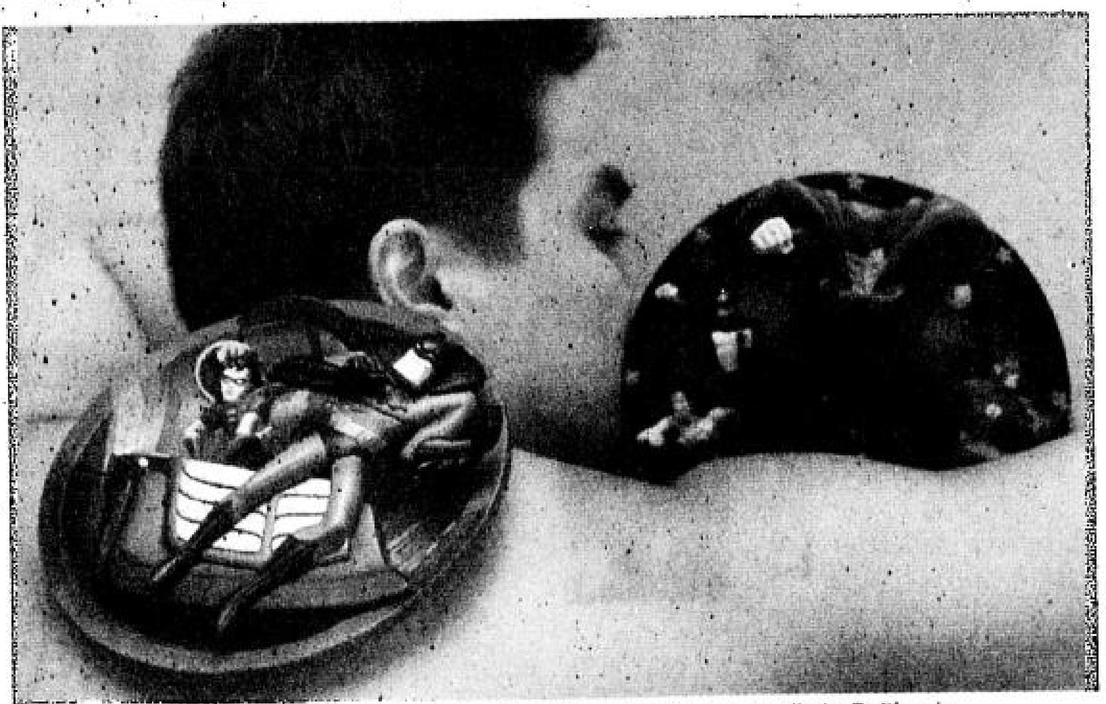
FACIAL PROGRAM (20 SESSIONS)	P 5,000
LEG SCARS PROGRAM	P 5,000
SKIN PIGMENTATION PROGRAM	P 5,000
ACNE & OILY SKIN PROGRAM	P 5,000
WRINKLE & DRY SKIN PROGRAM	P 5,000
BODY PEEL / BLEACH PROGRAM	P 7,000
UNDERARM or GROIN PEEL / BLEACH PROG.	P 5,000
FACIAL PEEL / BLEACH PROGRAM	P 5,000
LASERIZED REJUVINATION PROG.	P 5,000
HEAD TO TOE WART REMOVAL PROG.	P 7,000
POST-ACNE / POX SCARS PROGRAM	P 5,000
WHITE SCAR PROGRAM	P 7,000
SLIMMING PROGRAM	P 7,000
TAKE HOME BLEACH	P 5,000

MAIL ORDER ACCEPTED
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
DRA. MA. LUISA UMALI
Administrator
OTHER SERVICES:
LASERBRASION, FACE LIFT, BREAST LIFT/AUGMENTATION, NOSE LIFT, DEEP SET EYE, EYEBAG REMOVAL, SCAR REVISION, CLEFT CHIN, DIMPLES, TUMESCENT TECHNIQUE LIPOSUCTION ETC.
CLINIC HOURS:
MON-SAT 11:00 AM-7:00 PM
SUNDAYS 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
CALL NOW:
QUEZON CITY
723-5259/65
721-9227/28
PARAÑAQUE
823-5485
DERM STRESS CLINIC
UNIT 4 VALENCIA HILLS COND VALENCIA ST. Q.C.
17 SINGAPORE ST. BETTERLIVING, PARAÑAQUE
NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISE
EARN HIGH DESPITE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS



SM
BOWL ALL U CAN!
Bowl "by the hour" in a lane with friends and play as many games as you can!
VALID FROM 10 AM - 5 PM ONLY,
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
EXCESS TIME WILL BE CHARGED ACCORDINGLY
SM BOWLING CENTER
PROMO RUNS FROM DECEMBER 01 TO FERBRUARY 15, 2001
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2692 Series of 2000

READY for his close-up: Actor Onemig Bondoc in ethnic accessories.



DECORATIVE superhero collector's plates from the Warner Bros. studio in California

The private fantasy of Onemig Bondoc

By Leah Salterio
Photos by Lyn Rillon
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

The matinee idol has moved into a one-bedroom pad filled with expensive pop-culture fetishes such as caps, toy cars and superhero dolls, and dominated by an expensive home theater system

TOY cars, robots and superheroes. You're not in a children's store or a product showcase. They're actually the items that welcome visitors to the bachelor's pad of 23-year-old actor Onemig Bondoc.

But the toy cars and robots are not your usual playthings. Onemig has prized possessions of Formula One toy cars, matched by his sports cap and miniature helmet collections, all imported from Europe. And his robots are also collector's items, not the type kids play with.

"Young boys will be thrilled if they come to my house," Onemig beams.

On top of his huge TV set in the living room are superhero figures of Batman and Superman in varied shapes and sizes. The two big ones in resin are gifts from the Warner Bros. store in Glorietta, where he was one of the special guests during the opening. The other dolls were given by TV host German Moreno.

Superheroes

"Ever since I was a kid, I have had this fascination with superheroes," Onemig grants. "All boys are naturally like that. But with me, I haven't outgrown it. Now, it has even become my hobby and I collect superheroes stuff."

Batman and Superman are present even inside his bathroom, with rubber superhero floor mats.

On top of the center table in the living room are decorative superhero collector's plates also given by Moreno. Underneath is a neat stack of racecars coffee-table books.

The actor's bedroom is a "showroom" of sorts, boasting a neat display of Formula One toy cars, some of which come from the signature stock of world-renowned German racecar driver Michael Schumacher.

Crowning the prized collection are Onemig's motorcycle and Jetski helmets.

The toy cars cost as much as $200 (P10,000), while the rare ones are bought for as much as $300 (P15,000).

"I take very good care of these cars and I'm careful even with the boxes because that's part of the price that you pay for," Onemig says.

Mazinger Z and Grendizer, which form part of Onemig's robot collection, have yet to find a place in his one-bedroom unit. The actor has kept the robots in their respective boxes inside his closet.

Simple taste

Onemig's expensive hobby speaks well of his taste for urban living. His one-bedroom unit in Greenhills, which he has been occupying for two months now, is a clear proof of his manly sophistication.

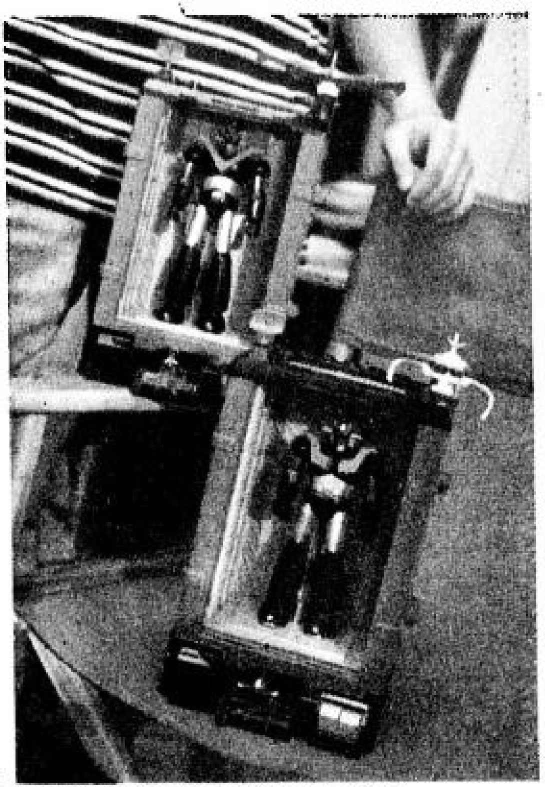
The condo is actually a gift from his parents, Nitoy and Milo Bondoc.

"I really wanted a pad of my own and my mom offered me this one which we used to rent out," says Onemig, who is the eldest in a brood of four.

"We had it renovated before I moved in. The place is perfect for me."

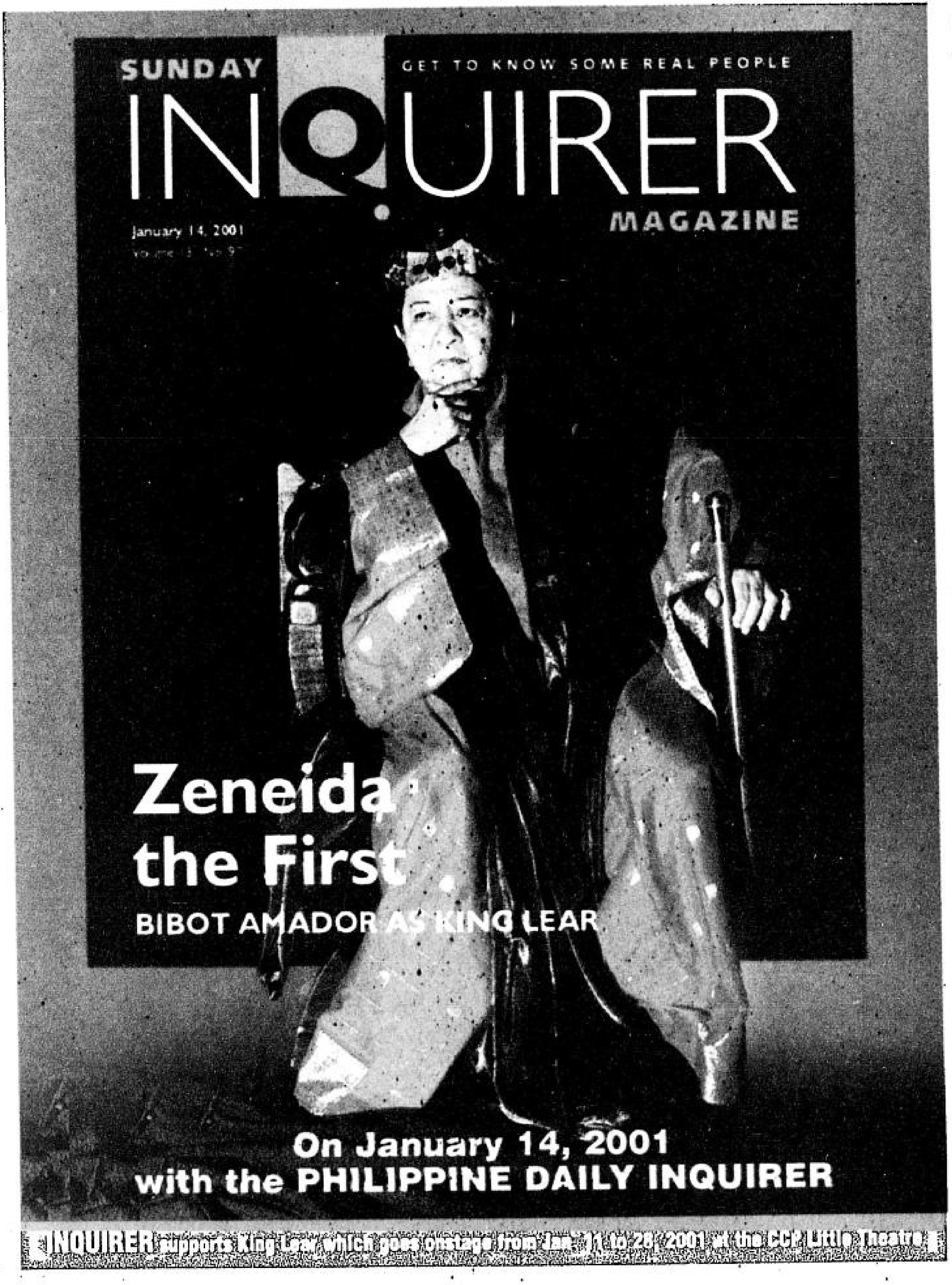
Except for the air-conditioning unit which has yet to be installed, the pad is furnished according to Onemig's taste and choices. The only items his mom brought in are the stand fan in the

THE PRIVATE/ p.C5



ROBOTS from Onemig's collection

THE NARRA flooring in polyurethane polish complements the tasteful design and furnishings of the unit.

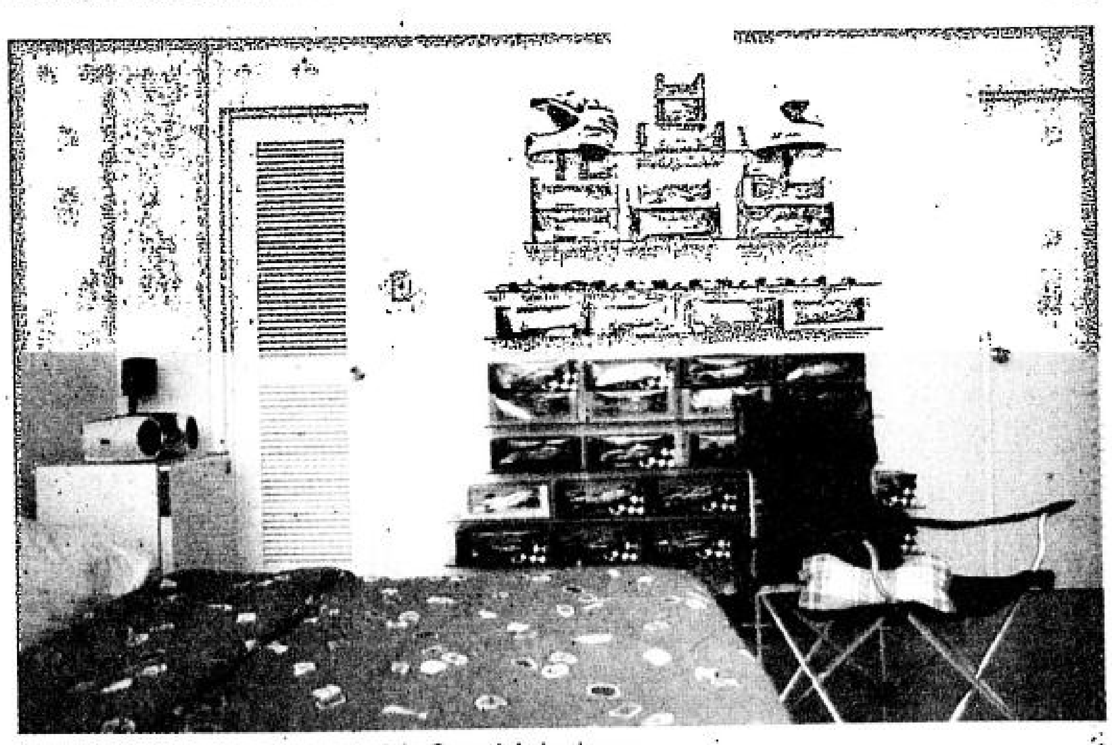


SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE
January 14, 2001

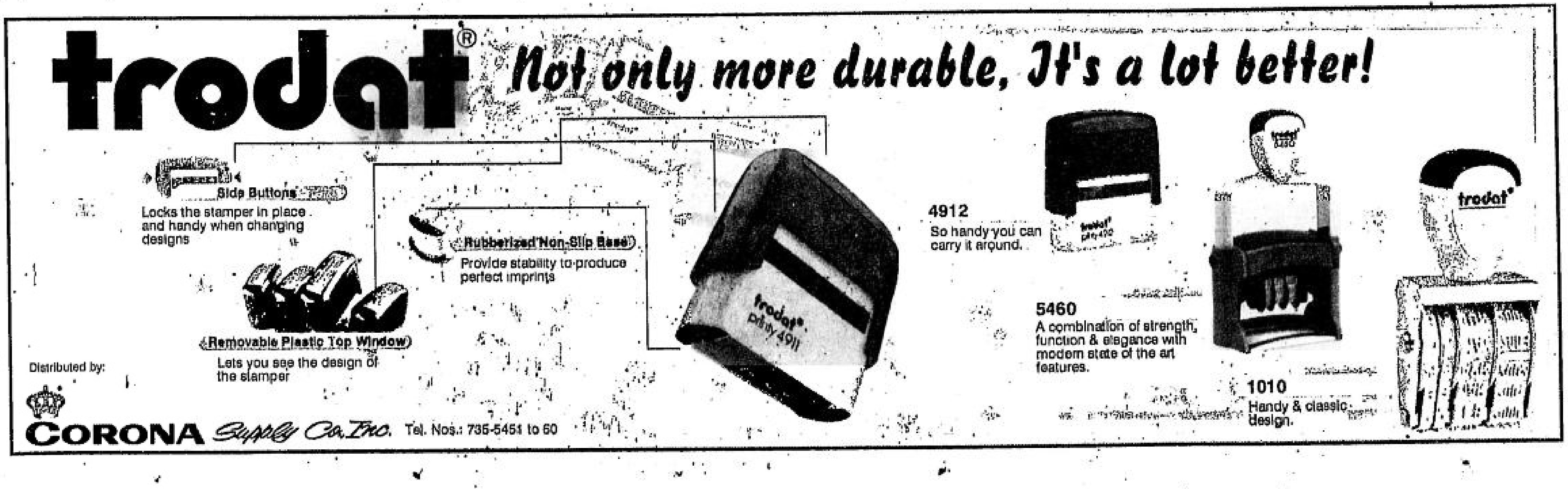
Zeneida the First
BIBOT AMADOR AS KING LEAR

On January 14, 2001
with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER supports King Lear which goes onstage from Jan. 11 to 28, 2001 at the CCP Little Theatre



FERRARI toy cars in a neat stack in Onemig's bedroom



trodat® Not only more durable, It's a lot better!

Side Buttons
Locks the stamper in place and handy when changing designs

Rubberized Non-Slip Base
Provide stability to produce perfect imprints

Removable Plastic Top Window
Lets you see the design of the stamper

4912
So handy you can carry it around.

5460
A combination of strength, function & elegance with modern state of the art features.

1010
Handy & classic design.

Distributed by:
CORONA Supply Co. Inc. Tel. Nos.: 735-5451 to 60

Gary V. concert in eco-fair

THE MIRIAM Public Education and Awareness Campaign for the Environment (Miriam-Peace) and Earthwatch Philippines with Genesis Manila present Miriam College Ecology Fair 2001, dubbed "All Fair One, One Fair All," which runs until Jan. 13. The fair will culminate in "Gary V. Live! Concert for the Environment," 6 tonight at Miriam College. Call 920-5093 or 435-9241 to -46 local 348.

How Georgette came through

FOR SOMEONE who can do pyrotechnics on pointe with her eyes closed, dancer Georgette Sanchez was challenged by balancing on a bench just on one leg, wearing 4"-heeled Jimmy Choo shoes.

Our model for this issue's fashion shoot *(See page C4)* recently won the second prize in the 9th Concours de Danse de Paris. The announcement about the Philippines' triumph in this international dance competition was modest compared to the publicity of a "Miss Saigon" understudy.

The Ballet Philippines' dancer performed three solos of various styles: Agnes Locsin's "September," a tender tribute to the late Cultural Center of the Philippines' president Teresa Escoda Roxas, Alden Lugnasin's modern ethnic "Aku" and Claude Brumachon's athletic "L'Ecuiere (The Equestrienne)."

Friends who watched the rehearsals were impressed with Sanchez's powerful interpretation of 'L'Ecuiere" despite the fact the dancer just learned the choreography from a video. Two months before the December competition, she was coached by dancer-choreographer Judell de Guzman, Camille Ordinario and Christine Crame. After a regular eight-hour schedule of company classes and rehearsals, she worked with Locsin until midnight. During breaktime, she'd do a mean workout on the abdomen and legs or Pilates mat exercises.

Sanchez was trained by her mother in Bacolod. Ten years ago, while taking classes at BP, she caught the attention of her teachers Tina Fargas and Noordin Jumalon. They saw her great potential and encouraged her to pursue a dancing career.

When she was doing corps work, balletomanes observed that Sanchez looked like a younger sister of BP's principal Cecile Sicangco-Ibarrola (who has become a national figure with her Pilates figure and Caltrate endorsement). Among the corps de ballet, she stood out for expansive and piercing movements. She exuded this larger-than-life quality.

Sanchez belonged to a generation of dancers who were trained by Locsin. The choreographer's earlier style was hard-edged, heavy on the legs and androgynous (the girls danced like butches sometimes).

Sanchez used to be afraid of Locsin who intimidated her wards with exacting discipline and tough workouts. The choreographer liked to push her dancers to their limits—and got dramatic results. A kind word of encouragement from Locsin was as meager as bird dropping. Sanchez recalled how her mentor pressured her to lose weight. For a 5'2" dancer, she was pudgy at 115 pounds.

Diets didn't work. "I tried all of them and nothing happened," she said. Taking two classes a day plus rehearsals got Sanchez down to her ideal 103 pounds. Chocolates are her only weakness.

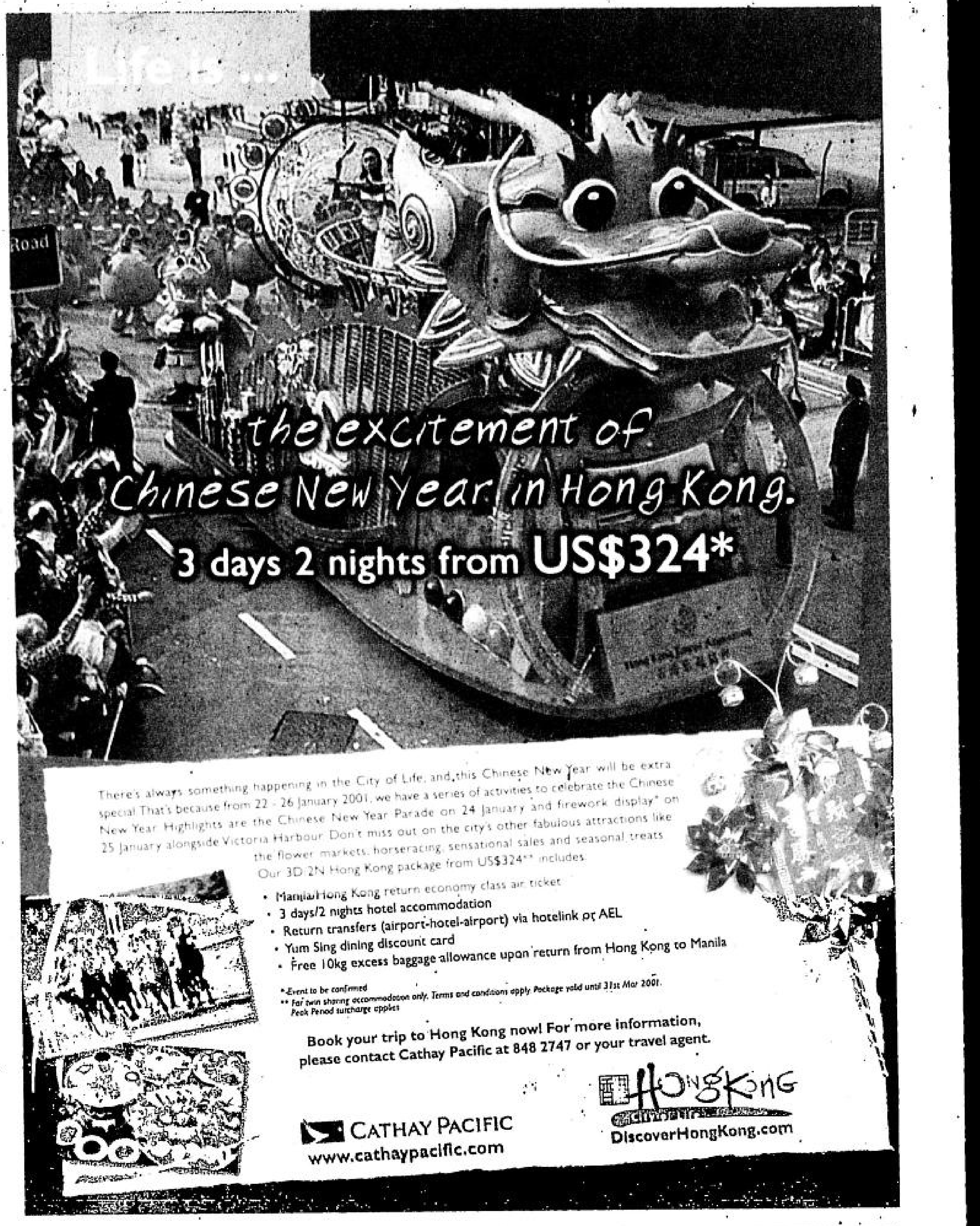
Sanchez is in her element when she does dances that test her muscle power. She's not into romantic and lyrical stuff.

"I remember Agnes (Locsin) telling me that when I dance, people can see that I'm enjoying."

Marge C. Enriquez

HANGING ON. Georgette wears a silk giraffe-printed blouse by Dolce & Gabbana from Wish store.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA


Life is ...

the excitement of Chinese New Year in Hong Kong.

3 days 2 nights from US$324*

There's always something happening in the City of Life, and this Chinese New Year will be extra special. That's because from 22 - 26 January 2001, we have a series of activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Highlights are the Chinese New Year Parade on 24 January and firework display* on 25 January alongside Victoria Harbour. Don't miss out on the city's other fabulous attractions like the flower markets, horseracing, sensational sales and seasonal treats.

Our 3D/2N Hong Kong package from US$324** includes:

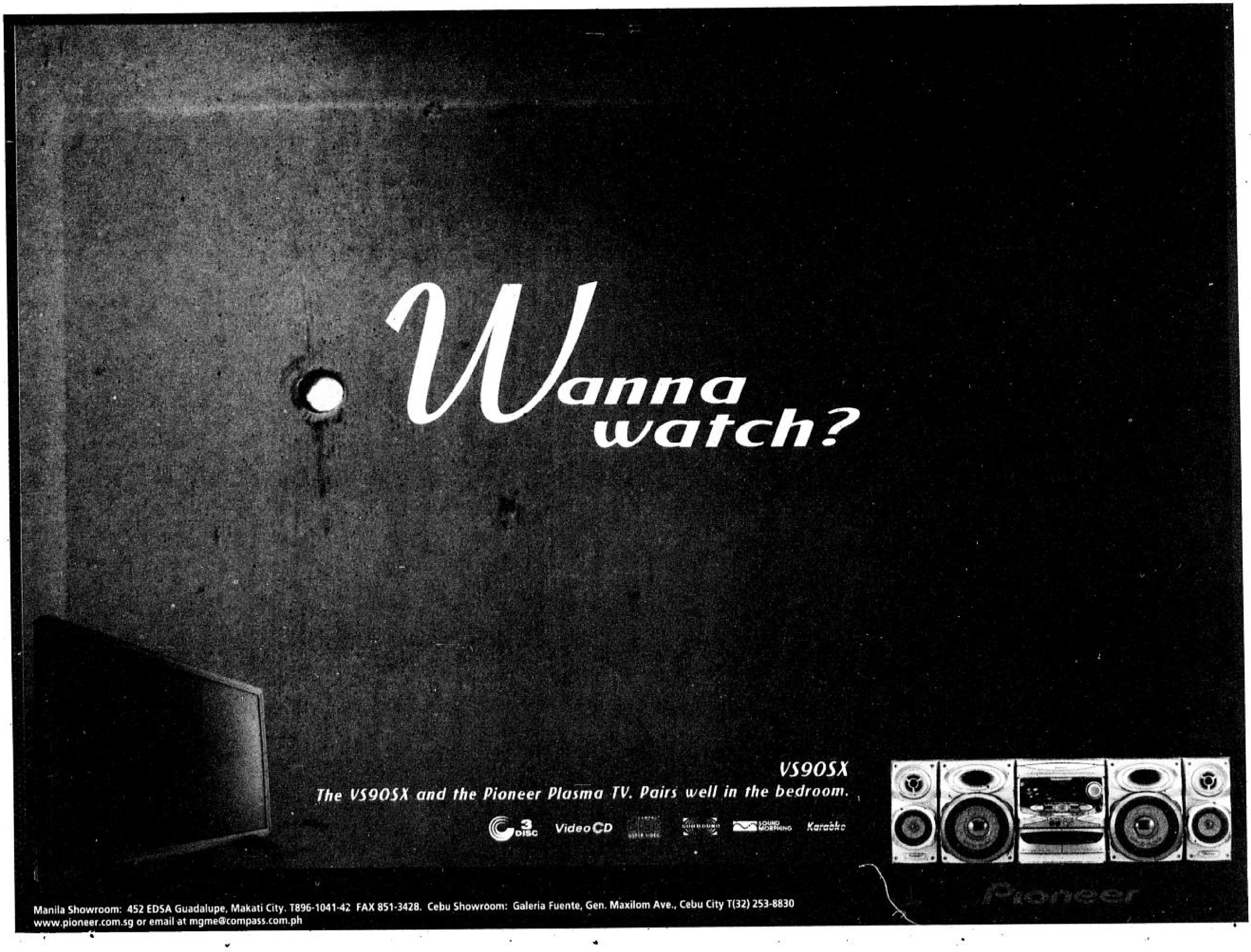
- Manila/Hong Kong return economy class air ticket
- 3 days/2 nights hotel accommodation
- Return transfers (airport-hotel-airport) via hotelink or AEL
- Yum Sing dining discount card
- Free 10kg excess baggage allowance upon return from Hong Kong to Manila

* Event to be confirmed
** For twin sharing accommodation only. Terms and conditions apply. Package valid until 31st Mar 2001. Peak Period surcharge applies

Book your trip to Hong Kong now! For more information, please contact Cathay Pacific at 848 2747 or your travel agent.

CATHAY PACIFIC
www.cathaypacific.com

HONG KONG
DiscoverHongKong.com


Wanna watch?

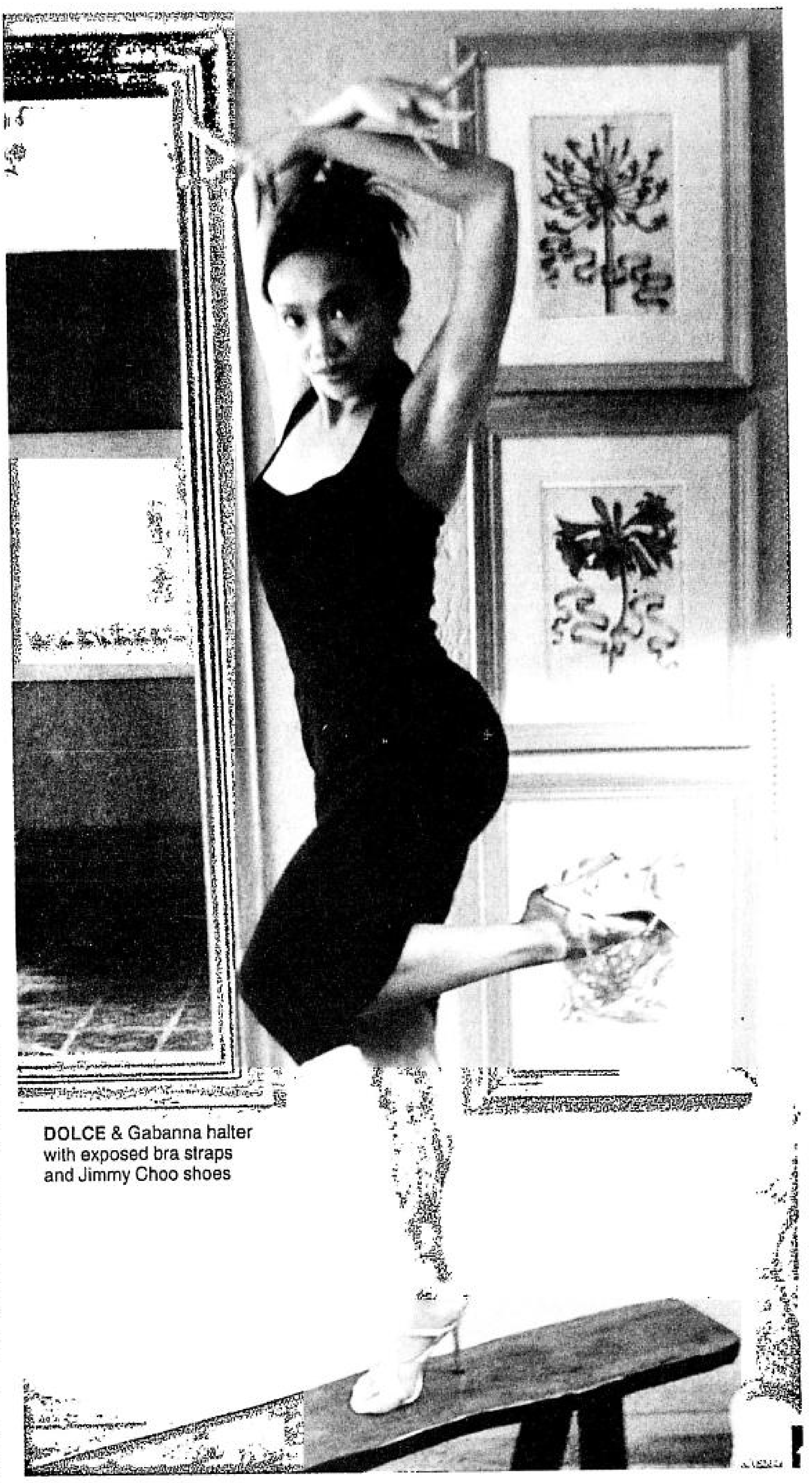
VS90SX
The VS90SX and the Pioneer Plasma TV. Pairs well in the bedroom.

3 DISC VideoCD Karaoke

Manila Showroom: 452 EDSA Guadalupe, Makati City. T896-1041-42 FAX 851-3428. Cebu Showroom: Galeria Fuente, Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City T(32) 253-8830
www.pioneer.com.sg or email at mgme@compass.com.ph

Pioneer

GEORGETTE wears a Patch NYC t-shirt and matching bag with sunglasses by Cutler and Gross.



DOLCE & Gabanna halter with exposed bra straps and Jimmy Choo shoes

Your Wish list fulfilled

A new store at Shangri-La Makati offers inspired and inspirational lifestyle

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

STORE consultants Ana Buenaventura and Mia Borromeo are shod in Sergio Rossi shoes. Bags by Anya Hindmarch. Mia wears a Chan Lew necklace. Animal skin stools by Black Dog.

IN THIS P51 to $1 lifestyle, the show must go on for entrepreneurs who made business plans back when the exchange rate was P40 to $1, and for customers who want a quick fix from shopping despite the currency turmoil and other economic problems.

Opened last month, this store in the Makati bastion of luxury brands aims to fulfill your desires (of course, those desires aside from world peace and a new government).

Called Wish, the name implies an inspirational lifestyle dreamed about by many Filipinos. In 203 sq m of space at the Shangri-La Makati's shopping arcade, the store offers 30 brands, ranging from toiletries to designer wear. The owners and buyers have carefully selected the merchandise.

"It's like a mini-mart of the best things in life," said coowner Anthony Meer.

The store was born out of the owners' personal wishes. They wanted to enjoy trendy and exquisitely made functional items However, these weren't available in the Philippines.

The concept started as a jest. "Why don't we start something so we can shop wholesale for ourselves?" Angelica Sison recalled telling Meer. They had thought that since they were shopaholics, they might as well cash in on their shopping ways.

However, the store's objective isn't self-serving. There's a market, albeit recession-proof, that demands the best things in life. Never mind if the customers get the flak from die-hard nationalists for their colonial mentality.

Selective

Asked where they got the capital to start the business, Sison replied, "The old-fashioned way—through blood, sweat and tears from our other businesses!"

Sison was coowner of Equistro, a chain of casual clothing stores. When her partners sold the chain, she went into retirement. Meer was the local distributor of Manolo Blahnik. Since there was clientele for designer footwear, he might as well supply the other things that go with it such as clothing, bags and jewelry.

Mia Borromeo and Ana Buenaventura, who worked with Meer for Manolo Blahnik, are the buyers and consultants. They handle the daily operations from the back end of the store to customer service.

Wish exemplifies selective distribution. Asked how they were able to sell their principals, Sison replied some of the suppliers were her personal friends. The brands are recognizable to Vogue and W junkies.

Coveted items

Wish carries perfumes from the House of Creed that caters to monarchs as well as movie stars. Me & Ro power jewelry, made from modern material mixed with silver and gold, draws inspiration from ethnic forms. Cutler and Gross sunglasses have a cutting edge over designer labels in the market. The hand-embroidered and appliqued T-shirts and fabric bags with splash pockets by Patch NYC are much coveted. Anya Hindmarch's whimsical handbags are fashioned from appealing fabrics, special skins and strong linings. Lulu Guinness' floral handbags, which are only in the most exclusive stores in the world, have found themselves in Wish's shelves.

The Manolos, which once belonged to Meer, have now been merged with the other brands. At today's exchange rate, they cost P25,000. Sergio Rossi, another popular label, costs half the price of a Manolo.

In designer labels, the first shipment to arrive is Dolce & Gabbana. Coming soon are Helmut Lang, Alberta Ferreti, Samsonite Blacklabel Travel wear made from techno fabrics.

There are other indulgences such as the Bliss toiletries and the famous Big Blue Bar soap, a long-lasting lemon-scented huge hunk.

Shoes for big sizes

How do they manage doing business with 30 principals?

"It's a nightmare!" the business partners exclaimed.

Despite the economic situation, the owners are optimistic. When the store opened last Dec. 6, sales exceeded their target by 80 percent.

"We could barely cope with the opening," said Meer. Everything sold quickly from the P450 compact discs to the P17,500 alligator bags. The first to go were the bags. The P3,500 Patch NYC T-shirts were snapped up.

The owners said they are not trying to cater to the upscale market. That's why Wish offers a variety of affordable items like the bath products and the CDs.

The store offers a wide range of shoe sizes. For women the sizes are up to 40 or 40½ or 10 to 10½, and for the men, the large sizes are 9 to 14. Not even stores in Hong Kong carry the full range of sizes..

Who shops at Wish? Somebody with a fat checkbook?

Not necessarily. "The customers are influenced by what's in the magazines. Oftentimes they'll look for specific things that have been featured. But people are making interesting choices. They take more chances with color and styles," said Buenaventura.

Borromeo added, "Filipinas have a thing for shoes. They even go for things with toe rings."

What makes Wish tick in this P52-$1 age?

"Honestly, there are customers who want to buy the brands. Because our prices are the same as anywhere in the world, people feel they're happy to buy here," said Buenaventura.

Why do they want those brands?

"Quality," replied Ana.

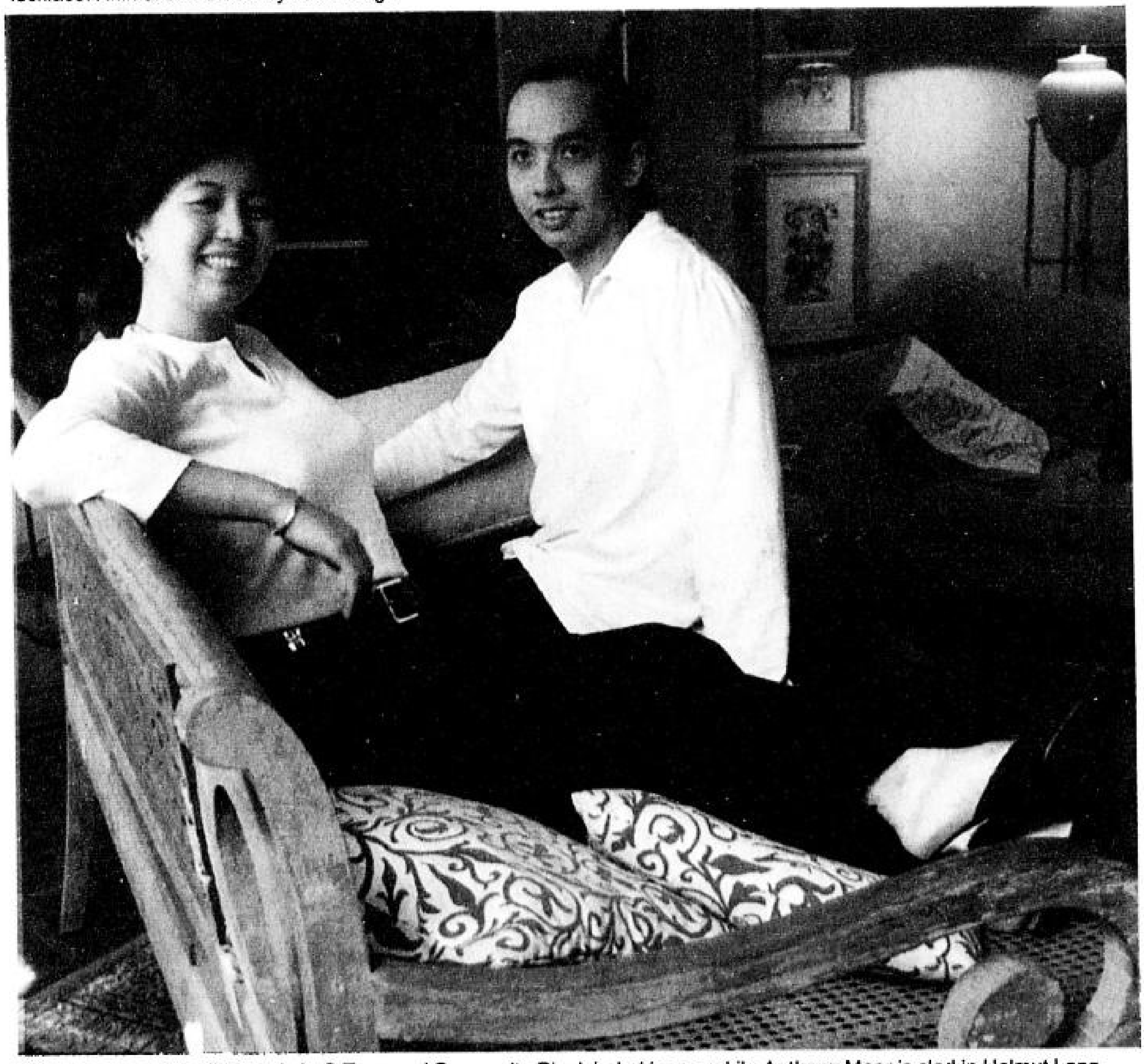
"They're hip and trendy. They're the look of the season," said Borromeo.

If you still find trends relevant despite the impeachment trials, Wish is your window to this rarified world.

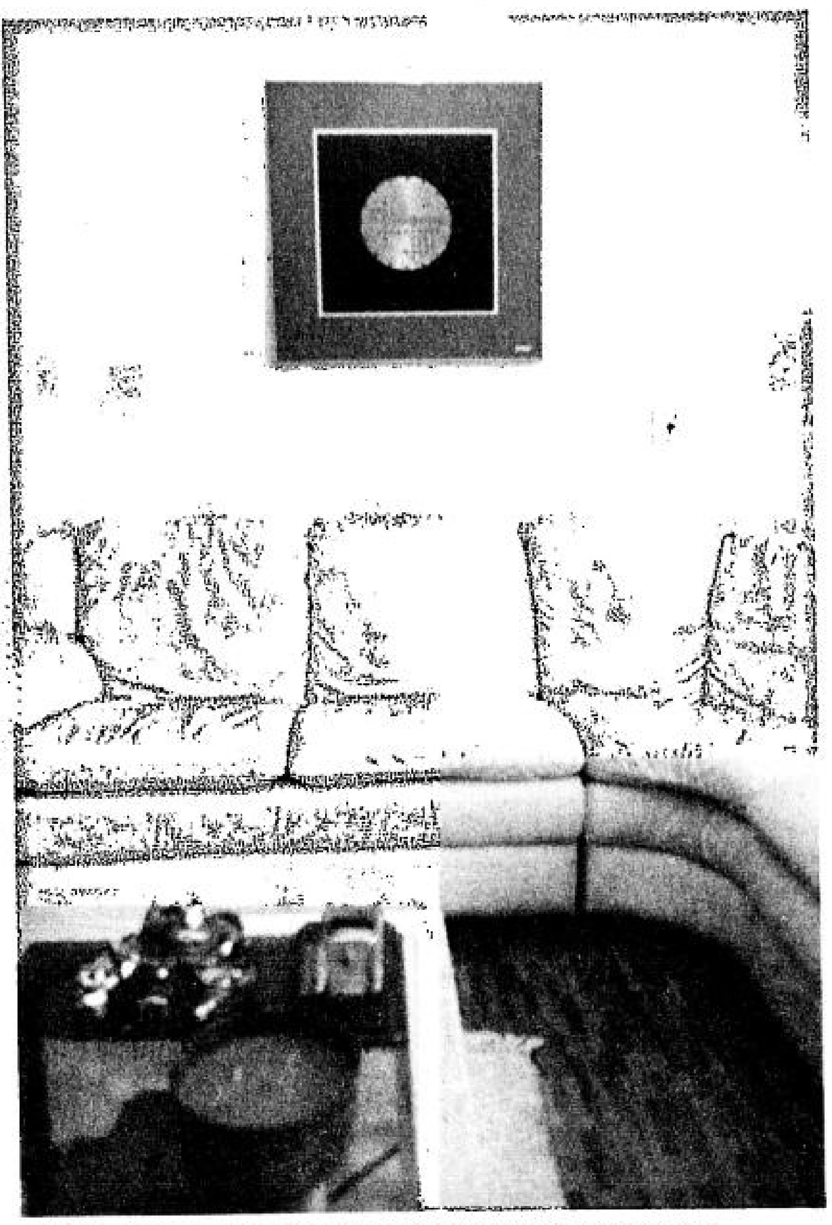
MODEL: GEORGETTE SANCHEZ
HAIR AND MAKEUP: JOJO ARJONA FOR TENG ROMA,
EMPHASIS SALON, ROCKWELL
MAKEUP: CLARINS IMPRESSIONIST LIGHTS
GEORGETTE'S MAKEUP: CHANEL SHADOWLIGHTS,
GEMSTONES, PLATINUM FACE POWDER
AND GLOSSIMER FOR LIPS
RESIDENCE: ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

CUTE slip-ons by Jimmy Choo for Anya Hindmarch

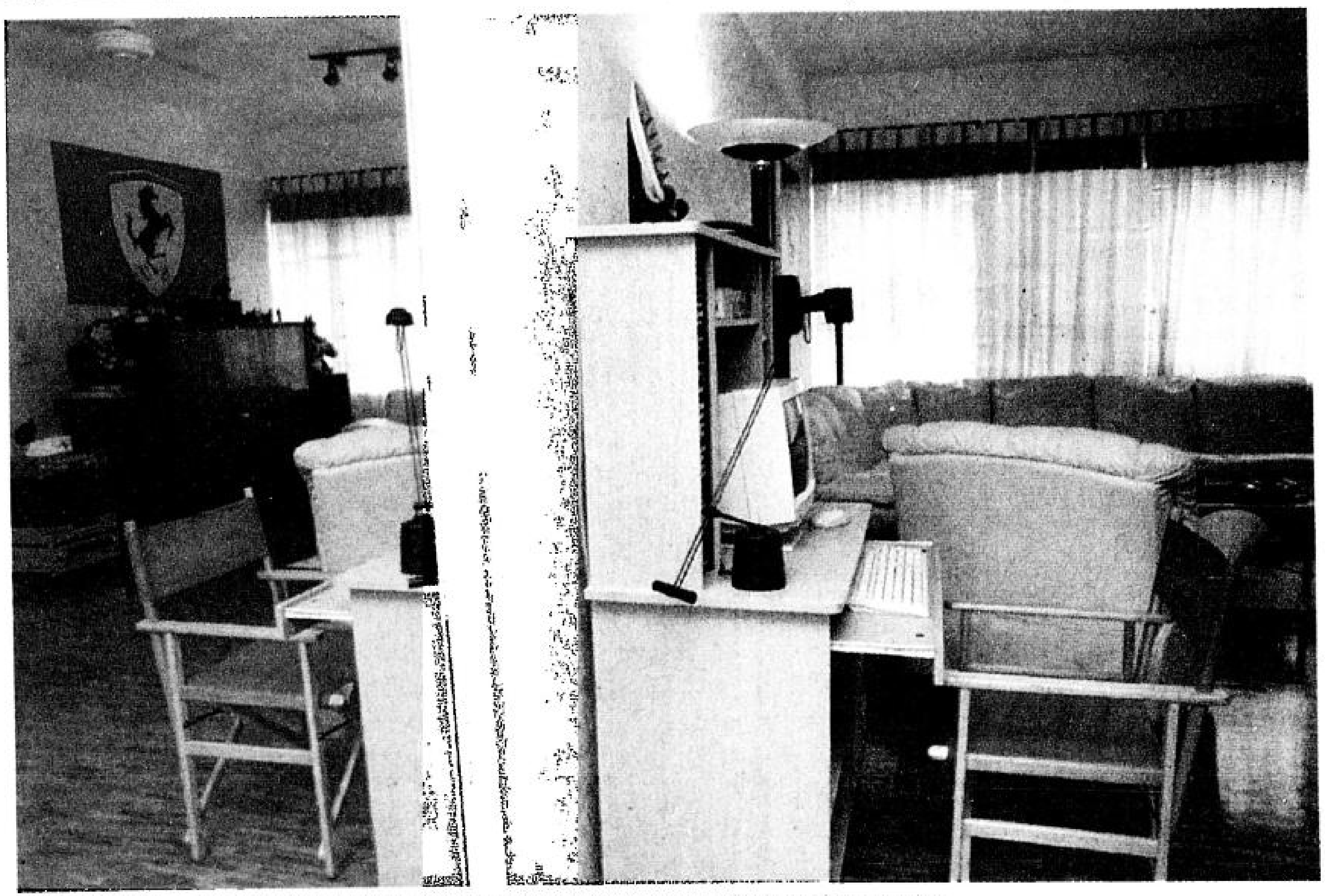
SERGIO Rossi bejeweled spikes



WISH partners Angeli Sison is in G Tees and Samsonite Black Label jeans, while Anthony Meer is clad in Helmut Lang.



A '70S artwork in brass by Ivi Avellana-Cosio in the living room



MINIMALIST is how Onemig wants it for his pad. The mirror shows a reflection of his home theater system.

The private fantasy of Onemig Bondoc

(From page C2)

living room and a chic lamp from Baguio, which hangs over the dining area.

White is the dominant color of the condo. Even the drapes, which Onemig himself chose, are in white, complementing the off-white Italian sala set shipped from the United States.

The only artwork in the living room is Ivi Avellana-Cosio's '70s piece in brass, mounted in black-and-red background. It was given to Onemig by his parents.

"This was a wedding gift to my parents by my dad's best friend," says Onemig of the artwork. "They say it drives away the bad spirits."

Onemig lives with his male *alalay*, Michael, a maid and a driver. Too bad he can't bring his two dogs to the unit. The dogs have remained at the family residence in Antipolo.

"But I go there every chance I get, also to see my family," Onemig says. "There are times that every night, I eat dinner there when I don't have any commitments."

Home theater

What astounds visitors in Onemig's pad is his home theater entertainment—a huge TV with surround sound system, which cost him a whopping P400,000 to install.

"I really saved for it because it's my dream," Onemig says. "Everything here, I bought with my own money."

At night, Onemig indulges himself in his "à la THX" cinema and watches Hollywood films on his DVD player. The DVDs are imported from the US, other parts of Asia and Europe. His collection includes such titles as "Face Off," "Air Force One," "The Patriot," "Pretty Woman," "Gladiator," "Keeping the Faith," "Braveheart," "Perfect Storm" and "The Best of NBA Finals."

Of course, Onemig also has the movies of his favorite actor, Leonardo DiCaprio—"Titanic" and "The Beach."

"I like Leonardo because he's a natural actor," Onemig says. "Even before I saw him in 'Titanic,' I liked him already. That was after I saw him in 'The Basketball Diaries' "

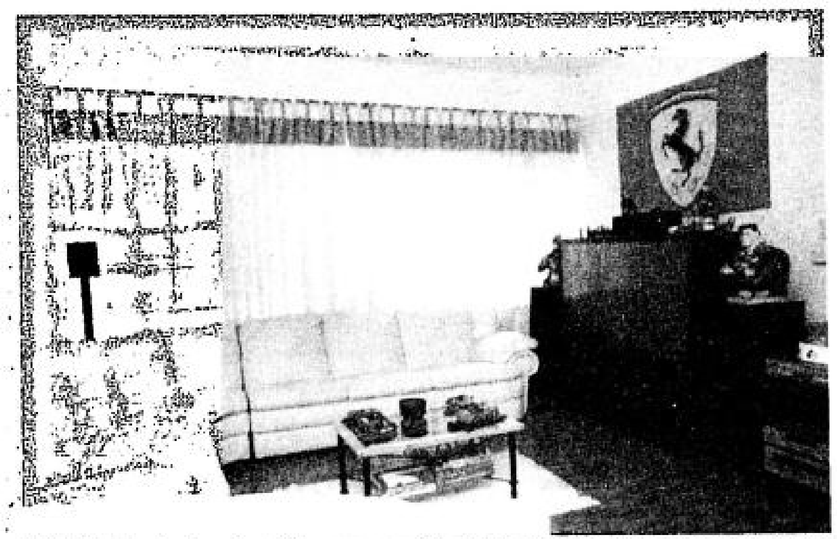
The CD stack inside his room consists mostly of New Wave titles, but also includes albums by Billy Joel, Freestyle, Lea Salonga and Jose Mari Chan.

That Onemig spends a large part of his show-biz income on his expensive hobbies is not really surprising. He makes good money as an actor, anyway. Aside from his TV and movie contracts, he is also a sought-after celebrity endorser, making sales pitches for such products as Oishi and Shago, the newest pearl shake cooler in town.

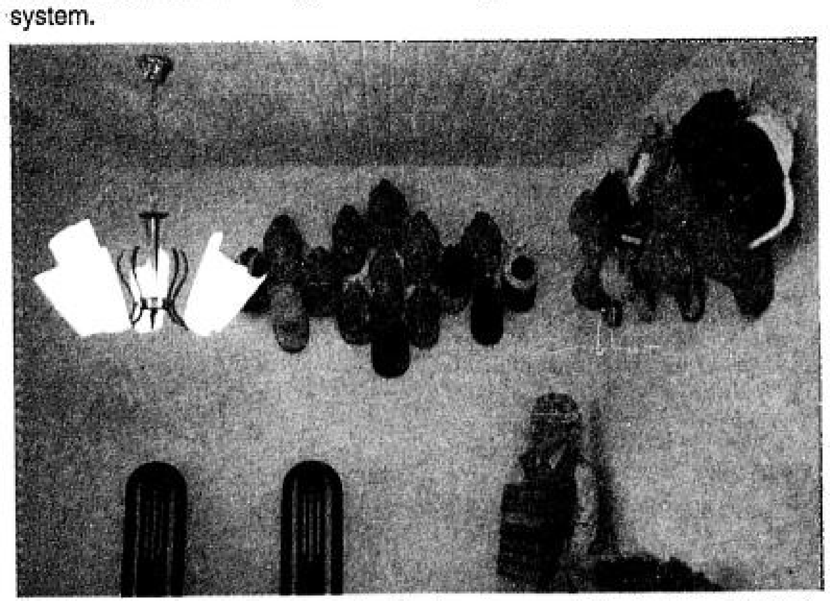
Onemig's closet also defines style, both in his casual and formal wear. He goes for Italian labels found at Linea Uomo. For his formal wear, he goes to Frederick Peralta for his suits and Randy Ortiz for his barong tagalog.

When his schedule is not so tight, Onemig prefers to stay indoors.

"I can spend the whole day watching movies in my home theater, even if I'm alone," he says. "That's one thing I really enjoy doing."



WHITE dominates the living room with a huge TV set with surround sound system.



FORMULA One sports cap collection in a happy clutter in one corner of his bachelor's pad

SIEMENS
mobile phones

Siemens M35i
Tough Enough
Water, Dust & Shock Resistant

Dual Band Technology
Games (Wayout, Reversi, Quattropoli, Minesweeper)
Currency Converter and Calculator
Large High Resolution Graphic Display
WAP Web Access
Silent Alert or Vibra Mode
Text Messaging and Caller ID
Up to 100 hours of stand-by and up to 3 hours of talk time
Shirt pocket size and weight. (118 x 46 x 22 mm and only 130 g)
Clock, Date and Time
Picture Messaging
Calling Faces
40 DJ Ring Tones Melody Composer
Selectable Menu Formats and Levels
*Actual size.

P8,190
Globe Prepaid Kit
with P500 worth of calls.

Download ringing tones from:
http://www.mobile-melodies.com/siemens

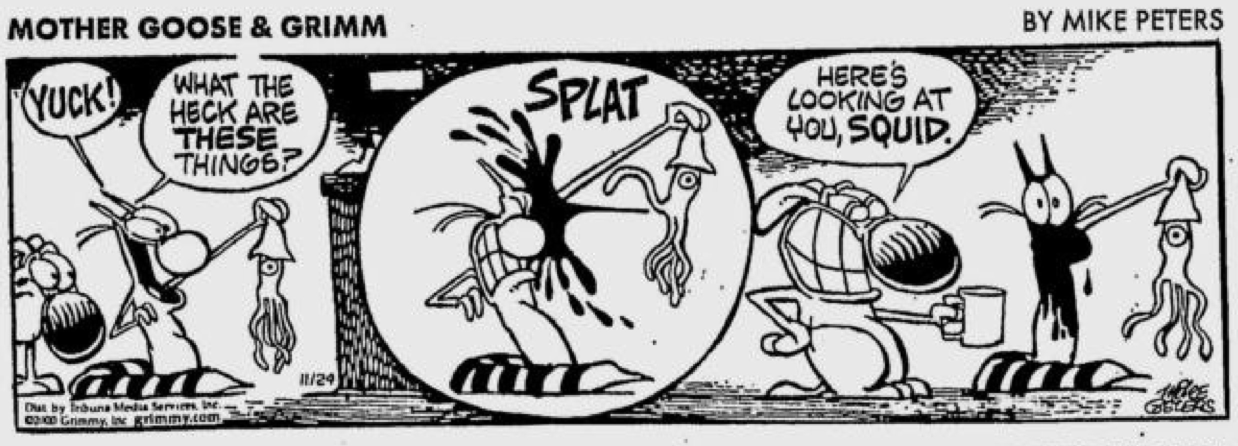
FAMI
First Asia Mobile, Inc.
1902-1903 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Phils. 1600
Tels.: 638-2573 to 75 • 910-6011 to 12
Fax: 910-6010

Globe Prepaid Plus

Also available at the following outlets:
A2 721-5943, Anaheim Bus. Corp. 534-3454, Cellway Technologies 725-3363, Dialogue Communication 633-7641, EPMC 631-3710, Games and Gadgets 727-5260, Globotel 888-0104, Jade Telecoms 733-3176, Jel Trading 681-5437, MemoExpress 681-7487, Mesghie Trading (Davao City) (082) 221-7207, Mobile 1 634-4728, Mobile Express 634-5891, Next Issue 721-1404, Orange Communication 725-0924, Power Mobile Corp. 725-0476, Q Solutions (Iloilo City) (033) 335-0095, Tecumseh Telecoms 725-8751, Telecom Concepts, Inc. 671-6601, Teletec (Cebu City) (032) 254-4343, TID/Wellcom 734-9034, Topwin 527-0923, Touchtel Marketing 637-9047, Y2K (Baguio City) (074) 304-1367, Alfa 1 Telecoms 636-6155, Audionet Trading (Cebu City) (032) 233-3255, Wireless Connections 816-4224, Wintelecom, Inc. 521-17921

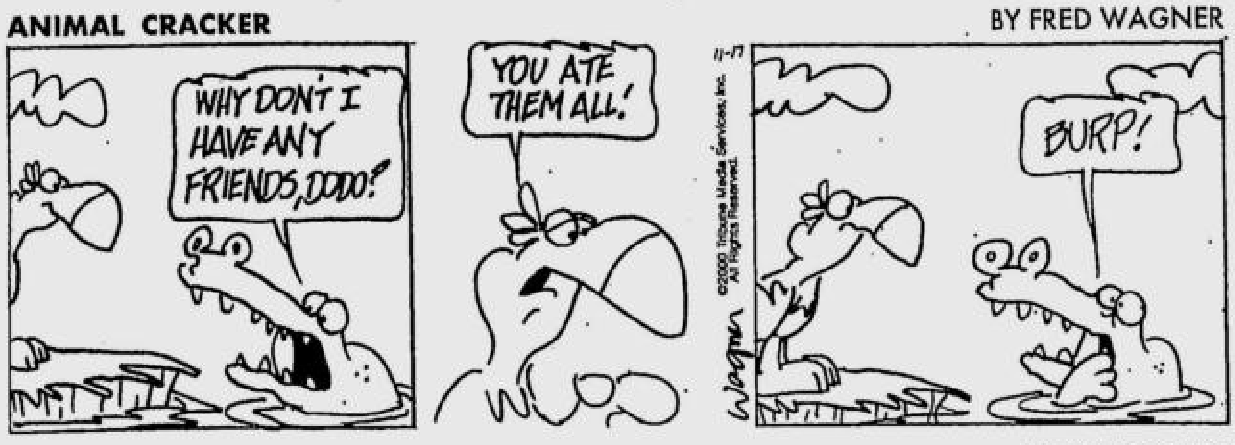
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YUCK!
WHAT THE HECK ARE THESE THINGS?
SPLAT
HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, SQUID.
11/29
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2000 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

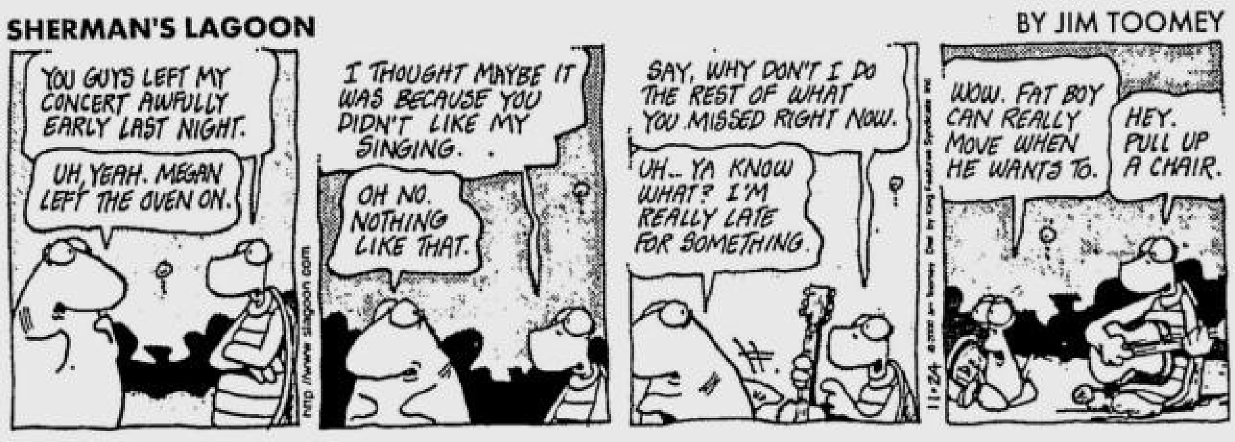
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHY DON'T I HAVE ANY FRIENDS, DODO?
YOU ATE THEM ALL!
BURP!
11-17
©2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
WAGNER

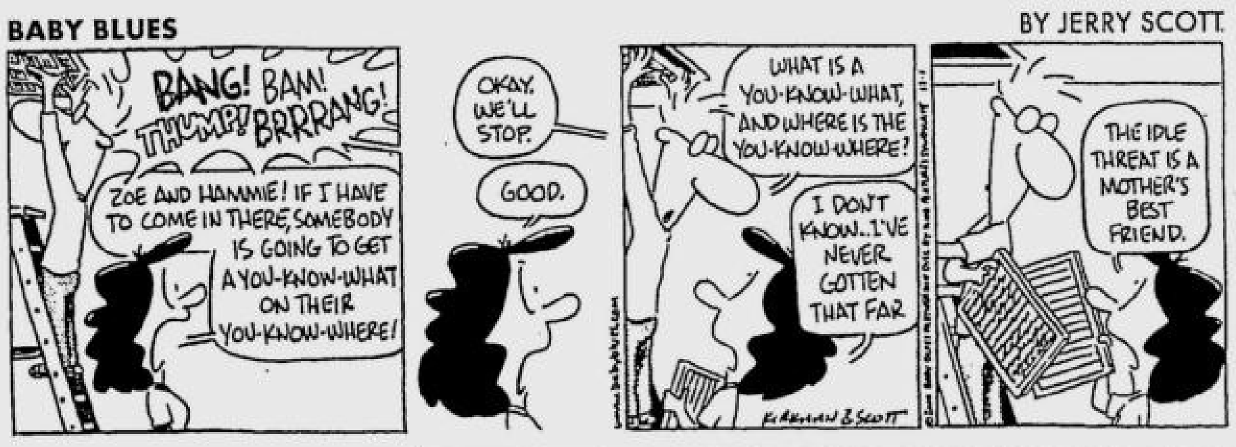
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU GUYS LEFT MY CONCERT AWFULLY EARLY LAST NIGHT.
UH, YEAH. MEGAN LEFT THE OVEN ON.
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T LIKE MY SINGING.
OH NO. NOTHING LIKE THAT.
SAY, WHY DON'T I DO THE REST OF WHAT YOU MISSED RIGHT NOW.
UH... YA KNOW WHAT? I'M REALLY LATE FOR SOMETHING.
WOW. FAT BOY CAN REALLY MOVE WHEN HE WANTS TO.
HEY. PULL UP A CHAIR.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-24

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BANG! BAM! THUMP! BRRRANG!
ZOE AND HAMMIE! IF I HAVE TO COME IN THERE, SOMEBODY IS GOING TO GET A YOU-KNOW-WHAT ON THEIR YOU-KNOW-WHERE!
OKAY. WE'LL STOP.
GOOD.
WHAT IS A YOU-KNOW-WHAT, AND WHERE IS THE YOU-KNOW-WHERE?
I DON'T KNOW...I'VE NEVER GOTTEN THAT FAR
THE IDLE THREAT IS A MOTHER'S BEST FRIEND.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirstie Alley, Howard Stern, Rush Limbaugh, Anthony Andrews, Joe Frazier, James Farmer, Vendela, Oliver Platt

Happy Birthday: Your diplomacy will win you favors. You will set trends and take a position of leadership if you are willing to work a little harder. Make the necessary personal changes to be with the person of your dreams. Actions speak louder than words, and this is your year to do rather than say. Your numbers: 2, 17, 23, 30, 44, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You should work on your personal relationship. Try to compromise. Be compassionate and understanding. You will be able to help those less fortunate through group efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't become involved in others' affairs. You will have to work at keeping your own life in order. Travel will be informative and offer a host of new ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be in an energetic mood and should head toward areas that concern you and where you can make a difference. Opportunities to meet someone special will evolve when least expected.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have a greater interest in foreign culture. Your thirst for knowledge will lead you in new directions. Join groups that can provide you with unusual information.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need to take a few steps back from your personal situation and re-evaluate your position and direction. Don't let minor health problems get out of hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do something creative with children today. Your night should be geared toward a warm encounter with the one you love. Let your feelings be known.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may find others demanding today. Take a look at your own responsibilities before offering your time to others. Don't let moody family members spoil your day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and socialize with friends. You should look into physical activities that will provide you with exercise as well as competition. Follow through on your unusual creative ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should take time to visit someone whom you don't get to see that often. Some family members may not be happy about the company you keep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can keep the peace if you do a little traveling or visit with relatives. Siblings may try to ruffle your feathers. Keep your cool and you'll gain respect.

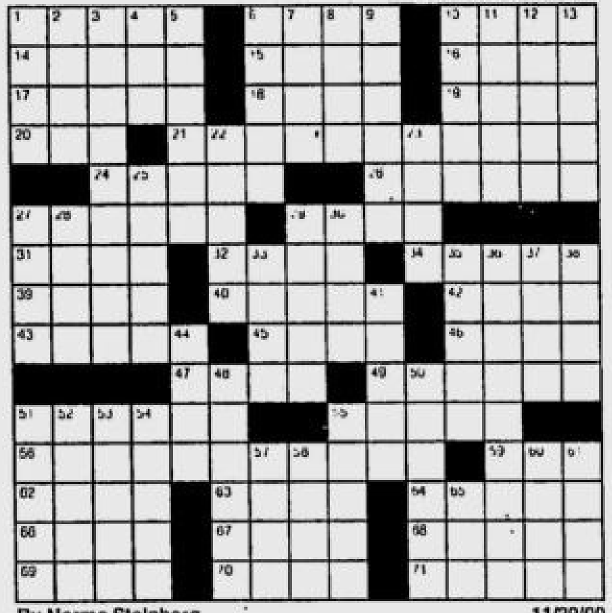
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't stand still any longer. It is time to get involved in hobbies, projects or with people you enjoy. Let down your guard and don't be afraid to voice your opinions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be questioning your philosophy today. Talk to those you respect and look into seminars that will provide you with a variety of options. Times are changing, and so are you.

Birthday Baby: You are creative, sincere and intelligent. You are a leader, not a follower, and will make your mark. You are always willing to put forth extra effort if it will help a cause you believe in.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

11/29/00

ACROSS
1 Heroic tales
6 Peck in "Moby Dick"
10 Novelist Irwin
14 Groom oneself
15 Game played on horseback
16 Frat party attire, perhaps
17 Renowned violin maker
18 Arkin or Alda
19 Gershwin and Levin
20 Equivalent wd.
21 St. Louis wrongdoing?
24 City on the Adige
26 Range
27 Preoccupy
29 Kismet
31 Overplay TLC
32 Harrow's rival
34 Go away!
39 Singles
40 Covering up the truth
42 Juno to Zeus
43 Uses a lasso
45 Not guilty, e.g.
46 Lazily
47 Raw minerals
49 Imelda or Ferdinand
51 Jean King or Holiday
55 Buccaneer city
56 Kansas City household?
59 Cellular letters
62 Erelong
63 By mouth
64 Gimme putt
66 Zephyr
67 Peruse
68 Spy
69 Highland miss
70 "Auntie __"
71 Musical units

DOWN
1 Hot tubs
2 Soldiers as one
3 San Francisco dance?
4 Qty.
5 Herbs in a mounted rack
6 Separated
7 Cargo area
8 Jai __
9 Easter chapeau
10 Wading bird
11 Mount
12 Encore!
13 Never existed
22 Photographer Adams
23 Choppers
25 Pee Wee or Della
27 Olfactory trigger
28 U2 singer
29 Thwarts
30 Frank or Jackson
33 Classify
35 Sound from a chick
36 Cincinnati rug?
37 Singer Guthrie
38 Hall-of-famer Willie
41 Nasser's first name
44 Agronomist's concern
48 Team back up again
50 Author of "The Joy Luck Club"
51 Donnybrook
52 Ancient region in Asia Minor
53 Former Australian PM
54 Touches down
55 Spanish accent mark
57 Vicinity
58 Queen's address
60 Muses count
61 Pismires
65 In the past

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

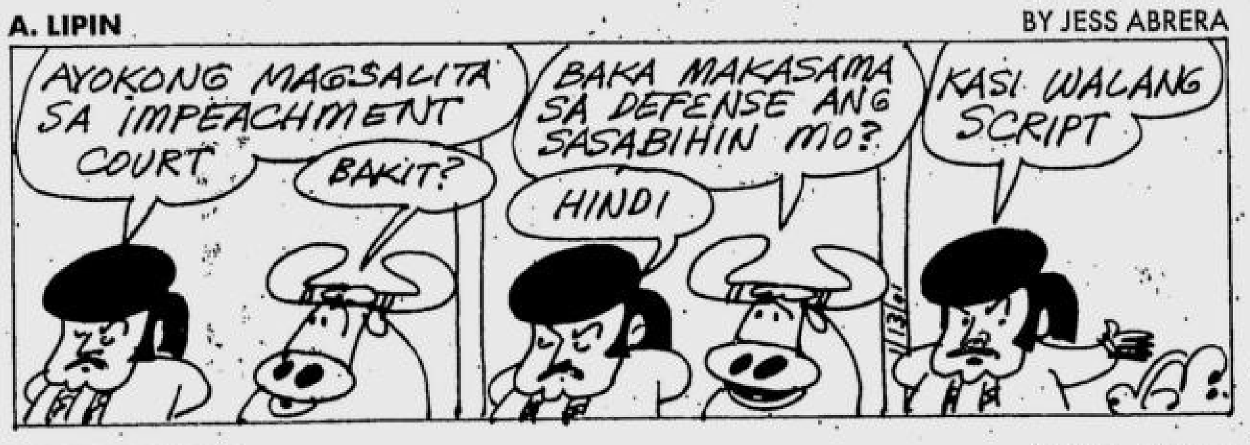
U	S	A	F	■	E	V	E	L	■	P	E	A	L	E
L	U	L	U	■	L	E	N	A	■	E	L	V	E	S
T	R	O	D	■	A	N	O	N	■	S	L	E	E	P
R	E	N	D	■	T	I	C	K	Y	T	A	C	K	Y
A	R	G	Y	L	E	■	H	A	V	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	I	S	H	■	■	E	R	N	E	S	T
E	N	S	U	E	■	I	R	I	S	■	A	S	E	A
R	E	A	D	S	■	D	O	T	■	S	M	A	C	K
G	I	R	D	■	P	E	T	E	■	A	B	U	S	E
S	L	A	Y	E	R	■	■	M	A	N	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	L	O	L	A	■	N	E	P	H	E	W
W	I	S	H	Y	W	A	S	H	Y	■	A	A	A	A
A	R	E	A	S	■	I	S	A	O	■	M	I	M	I
I	M	A	G	E	■	R	A	I	N	■	B	L	O	T
F	A	L	S	E	■	D	I	R	E	■	Y	E	N	S

(C)2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

11/29/00

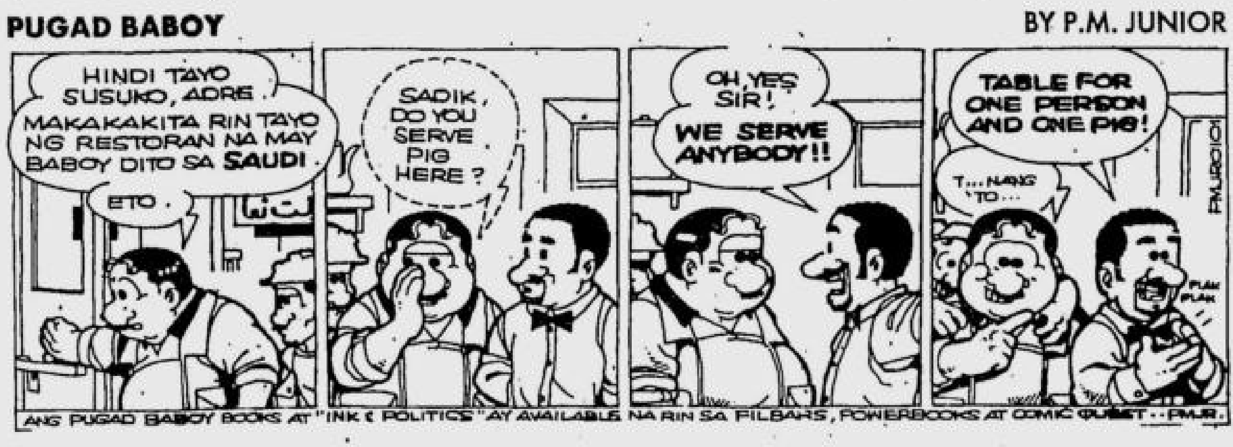
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AYOKONG MAGSALITA SA IMPEACHMENT COURT
BAKIT?
BAKA MAKASAMA SA DEFENSE ANG SASABIHIN MO?
HINDI
KASI WALANG SCRIPT

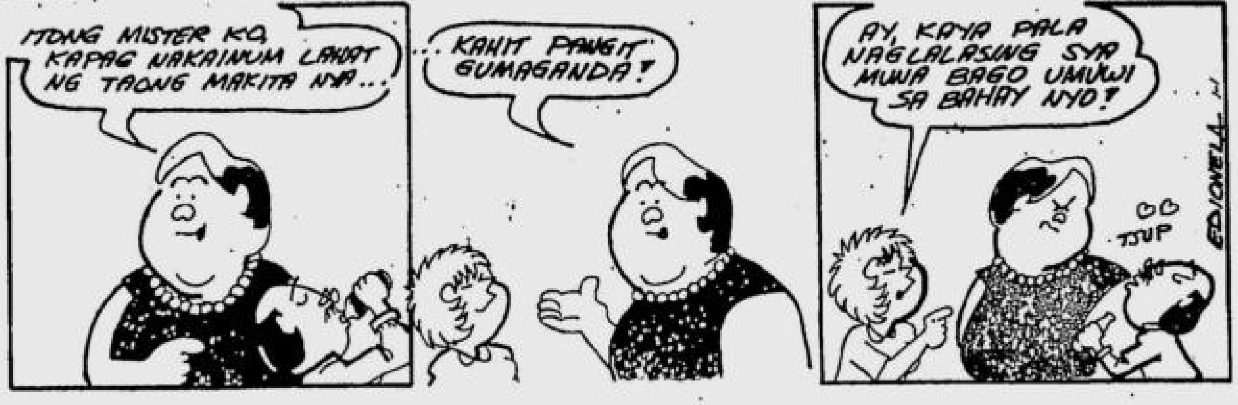
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI TAYO SUSUKO, ADRE. MAKAKAKITA RIN TAYO NG RESTORAN NA MAY BABOY DITO SA SAUDI.
ETO.
SADIK, DO YOU SERVE PIG HERE?
OH, YES SIR! WE SERVE ANYBODY!!
TABLE FOR ONE PERSON AND ONE PIG!
T... NANG... TO...
PMJR
ANG PUGAD BABOY BOOKS AT "INK & POLITICS" AY AVAILABLE NA RIN SA FILBARS, POWERBOOKS AT COMIC QUEST.. PMJR.

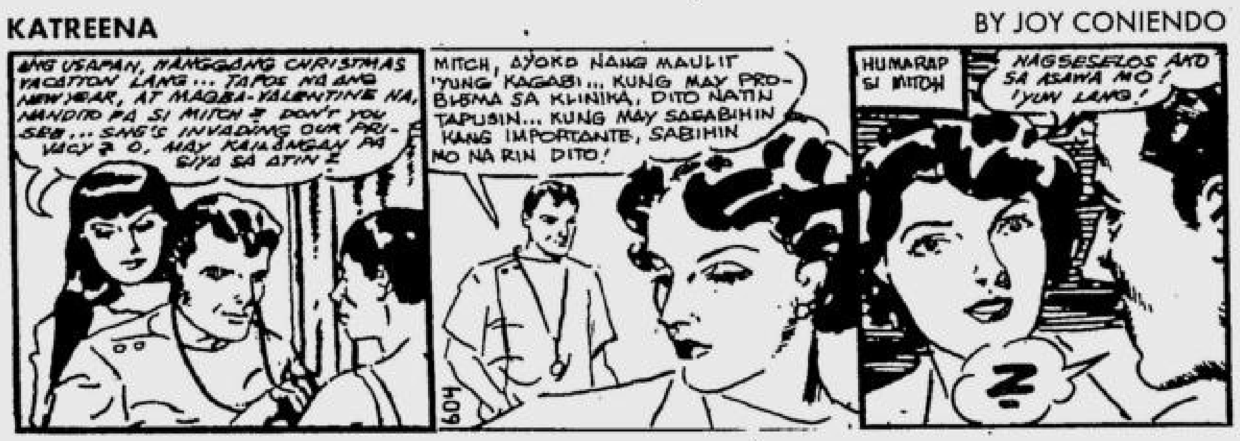
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ITONG MISTER KO, KAPAG NAKAINUM LAHAT NG TAONG MAKITA NYA...
...KAHIT PANGIT GUMAGANDA!
AY, KAYA PALA NAGLALASING SYA MUNA BAGO UMUWI SA BAHAY NYO!
TSUP
DIONELA

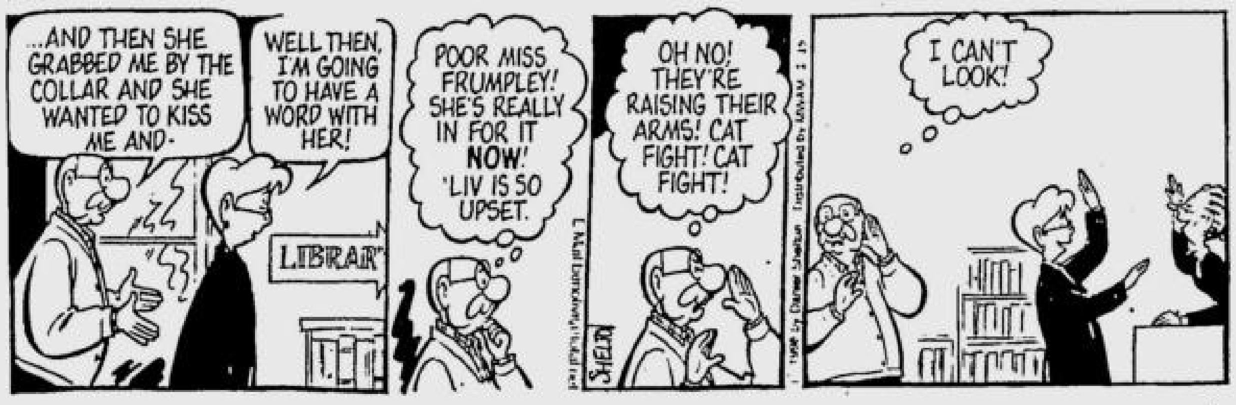
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


ANG USAPAN, HANGGANG CHRISTMAS VACATION LANG... TAPOS NA ANG NEW YEAR, AT MAGBA-VALENTINE NA, NANDITO PA SI MITCH! DON'T YOU SEE... SHE'S INVADING OUR PRIVACY! O, MAY KAILANGAN PA SIYA SA ATIN!
MITCH, AYOKO NANG MAULIT 'YUNG KAGABI... KUNG MAY PROBLEMA SA KLINIKA, DITO NATIN TAPUSIN... KUNG MAY SASABIHIN KANG IMPORTANTE, SABIHIN MO NA RIN DITO!
HUMARAP SI MITCH
NAGSESELOS AKO SA ASAWA MO! 'YUN LANG!
604

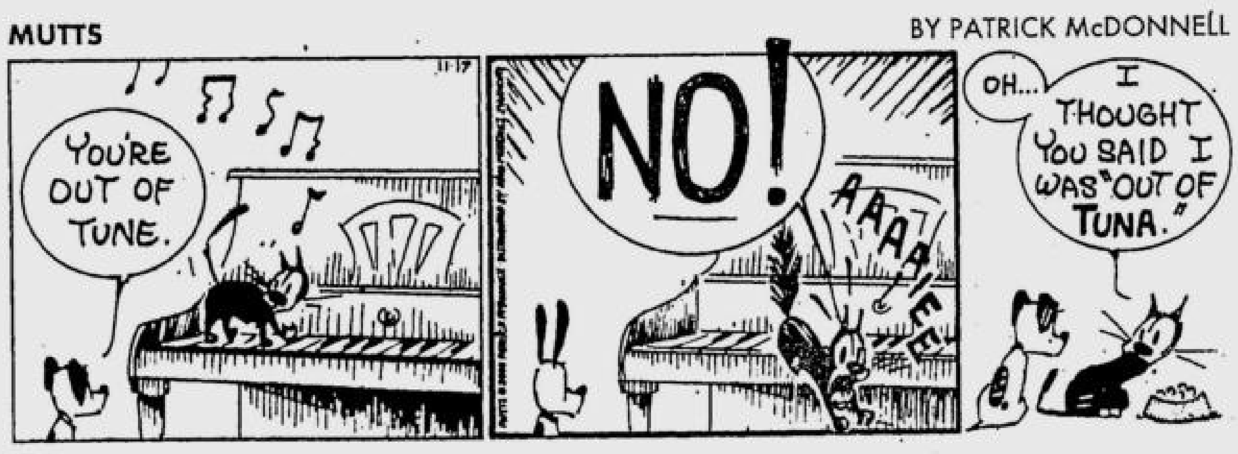
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


...AND THEN SHE GRABBED ME BY THE COLLAR AND SHE WANTED TO KISS ME AND-
WELL THEN, I'M GOING TO HAVE A WORD WITH HER!
LIBRAR
POOR MISS FRUMPLEY! SHE'S REALLY IN FOR IT NOW! 'LIV IS SO UPSET.
OH NO! THEY'RE RAISING THEIR ARMS! CAT FIGHT! CAT FIGHT!
I CAN'T LOOK!
SHELTON

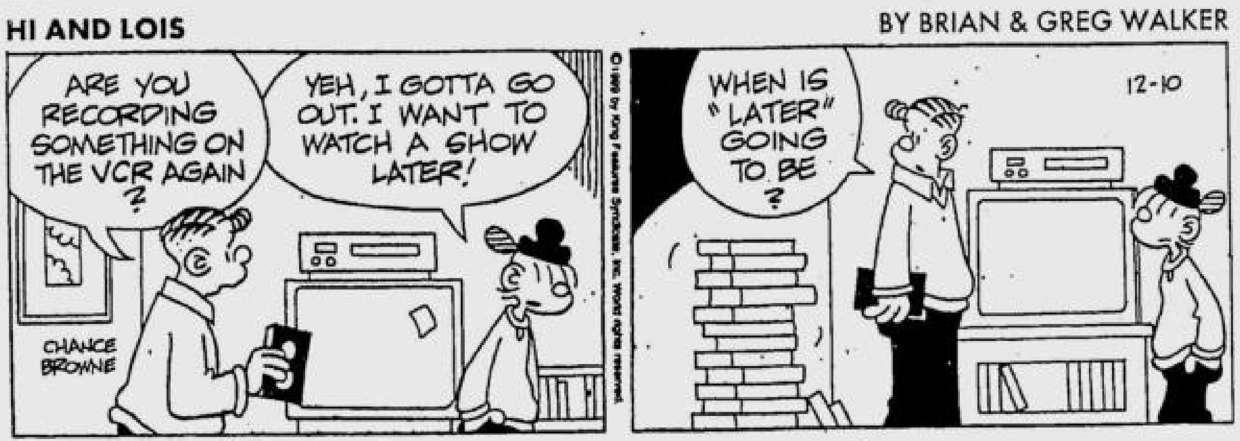
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU'RE OUT OF TUNE.
11-17
NO!
AAAAIEE!
OH...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID I WAS "OUT OF TUNA."

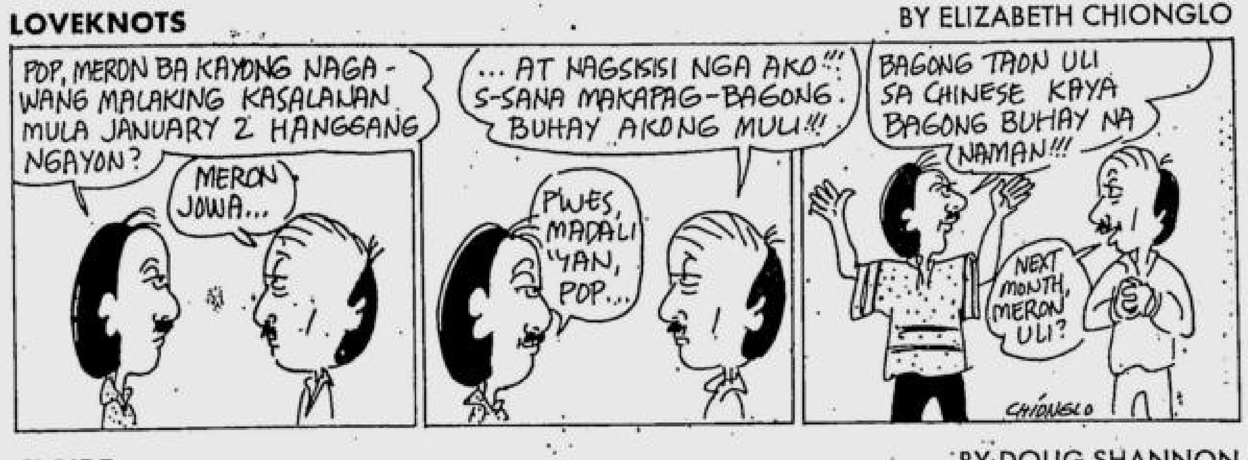
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


ARE YOU RECORDING SOMETHING ON THE VCR AGAIN?
YEH, I GOTTA GO OUT. I WANT TO WATCH A SHOW LATER!
WHEN IS "LATER" GOING TO BE?
12-10
CHANCE BROWNE

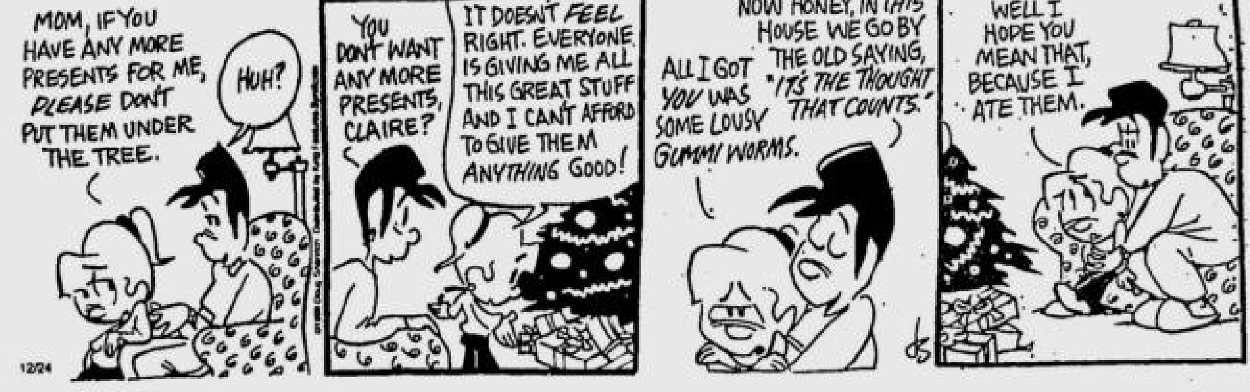
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, MERON BA KAYONG NAGAWANG MALAKING KASALANAN MULA JANUARY 2 HANGGANG NGAYON?
MERON JOWA...
... AT NAGSISISI NGA AKO!!! S-SANA MAKAPAG-BAGONG BUHAY AKONG MULI!!!
PWES, MADALI 'YAN, POP...
BAGONG TAON ULI SA CHINESE KAYA BAGONG BUHAY NA NAMAN!!!
NEXT MONTH, MERON ULI?
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


MOM, IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE PRESENTS FOR ME, PLEASE DON'T PUT THEM UNDER THE TREE.
HUH?
YOU DON'T WANT ANY MORE PRESENTS, CLAIRE?
IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT. EVERYONE IS GIVING ME ALL THIS GREAT STUFF AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE THEM ANYTHING GOOD!
ALL I GOT YOU WAS SOME LOUSY GUMMI WORMS.
NOW HONEY, IN THIS HOUSE WE GO BY THE OLD SAYING, "IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS."
WELL I HOPE YOU MEAN THAT, BECAUSE I ATE THEM.
12/24

A call for stronger car safety standards

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

A car firm refuses to refund payment for a brand-new car that's in worse condition than an old one, while Firestone denies it has sent its defective all-terrain tires to the country

REMEDIOS Revilla and her family had very high expectations from the brand-new car—a limited edition—they bought last Sept. 23. After driving it for three days, however, they noticed that the car would veer a little to the left and they had to control the wheel to hold the car steady.

They brought the car to the dealer's service station for its first check-up on Oct. 10. It was released Oct. 11.

"The car was in its worst condition after that," Ms Revilla wrote to us. "It did not only veer to the left, but it also veered to the right. After another check-up, our car had to be taken to the company's plant in Laguna for thorough evaluation. Finally, we were informed through the telephone that the problem was caused by tires.

"We don't feel safe driving around in this car anymore, so we told the car store manager that we have decided to return the car and we want our money back. To this day, they have refused to give our money back. They tell us it is company policy not to make any refund. As of the latest, they have offered to sell the car for us. However, we are told that we cannot get the full amount we have paid for it, if and when they sell the car."

The Revilla family should get a copy of the Consumer Act of the Philippines to find out if they stand a chance to get their money back. We feel very strongly that a buyer has the right to return a product if it is defective and deceptive, whether it is a bar of soap or a car.

Ban sale of substandard tires

MOTORISTS who are planning to buy new (and recycled) tires should keep their eyes open for certain models of all-terrain tires that Firestone has been recalling and replacing. The massive recall was instigated by countless reports linking the tires to tire failures, deaths and vehicle roll-overs recorded by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Blow-outs and tread peel-off are associated with these tires. Although we are assured by the local Firestone distributor that the tires in question are not being sold here, they admit that they have no control over unscrupulous tire vendors, particularly in the second-hand market.

Government authorities should enforce strict tire-testing and prohibit sale of substandard tires. It is quite obvious that tire safety is something motorists obviously don't give much importance to. Just look around and you'll see vehicles running on very bad tires. Why do you think vulcanizing shops are everywhere?

PNCC reacts to E-pass complaints

WE have yet to hear the last say on the electronic toll system. Here's a letter from Romerico Reganit, general manager of PNCC Skyway Corporation:

"E-Pass offers motorists the convenience of 'contactless' toll transaction. By mounting the tag on the inside surface of the windshield, it will be electronically read by a reading device installed at the plazas.

"The designation of dedicated E-Pass lanes for users is just one of the benefits. It translates to hassle-free toll payment. We believe it is one way of decongesting traffic. Less time is spent at the booths and there is less congestion at the plazas. If more people avail of the E-Pass tag, we will open more designated lanes.

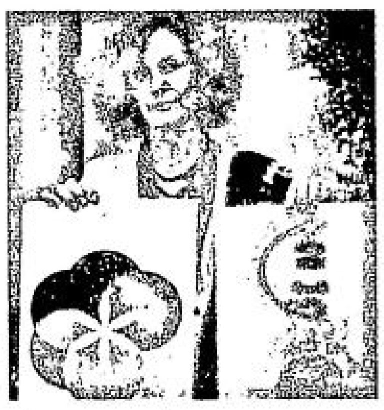
"We offer a most reasonable cost for the tag as it is still subsidized by our sponsor, Pilipinas Shell Corp. Initial payment of P1,600 includes P500 prepaid toll fees, free tag lease for the first five years, and a 50 percent discount on the annual fee from the second to the fifth year. We initially offered discounts for the first 10,000 users, but due to public clamor, we have extended discount privileges to the next 10,000 users."

Failed e-mail service

WE apologize to readers who have sent us messages these past three weeks to our e-mail address. Please re-send your letters to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph until further notice.

JOLLIBEE
EVERYDAY SPECIALS
ONLY TODAY
JAN. 12
PALABOK FIESTA*
NOW ONLY
₱30
SAVE P5
Jollibee
★ Not available for delivery

Know your aura



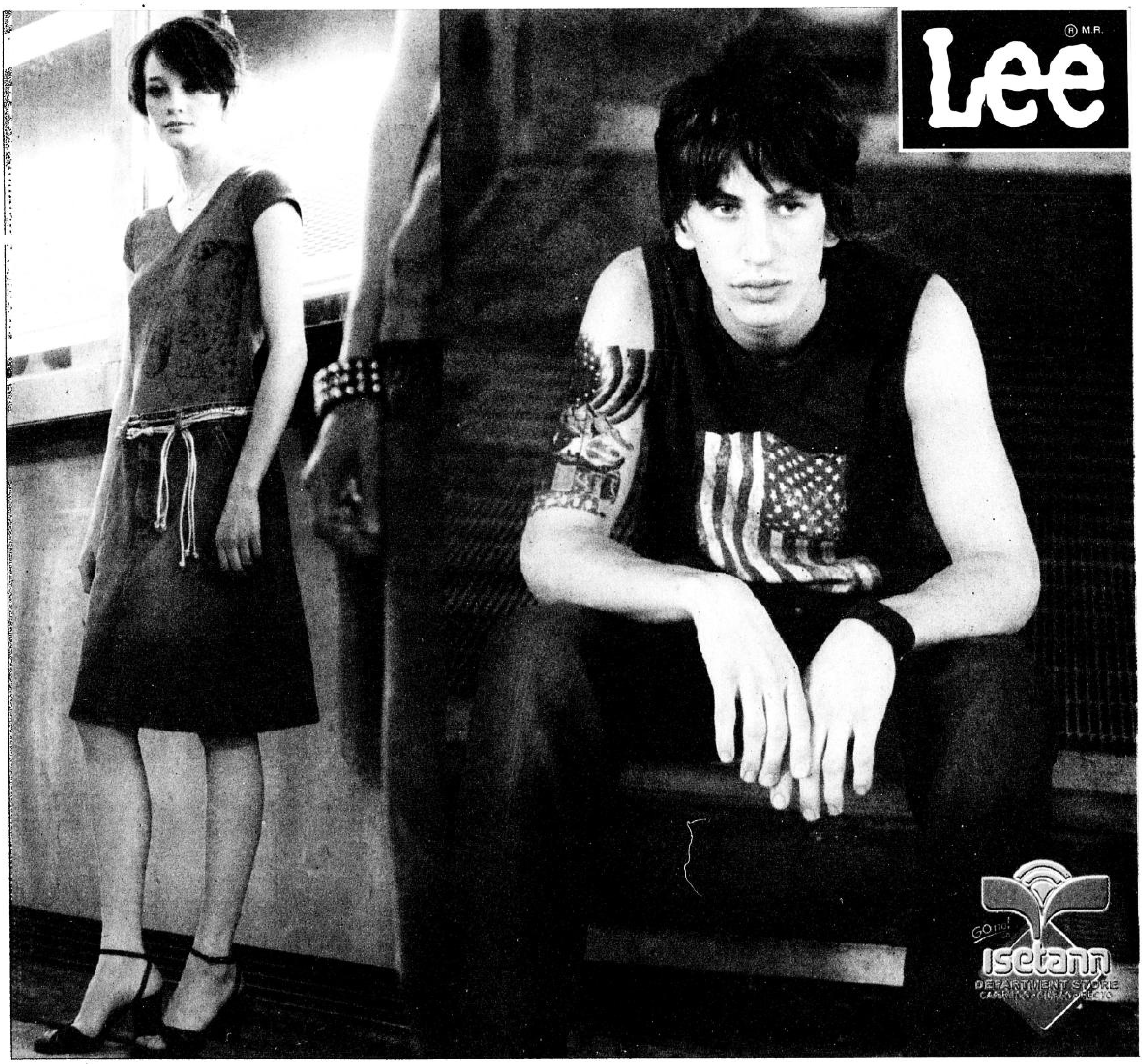
PAOLA Sani shows a chart of how the energy centers are related to a particular color.

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

SCIENTISTS are beginning to discover the miracle that we are beings of light—energy vibrating at different levels—each vibrational level projecting a color of the rainbow. We are alive because a life force flows through us. This life force is regulated by subtle energy centers called chakras. Each chakra is in constant motion and resonates to a particular wavelength of color. You restore balance and a healthy rhythm when you apply to the chakra the color, plant and crystal vibrations of the appropriate bottle.

Cultural, religious, philosophical and healing backgrounds have been using Aura-Soma as a tool to restore and maintain health on all levels.

On Jan. 15-17, Paola Sani, Aura-Soma and Reiki therapist, will conduct a seminar on Aura-Soma at Discovery Suites in Ortigas. Call 636-8899 or 633-2530, or e-mail Paola Sani at hcw.uyuni@pal-onl.com.


Lee ® M.R.
GO na!
isetann
DEPARTMENT STORE

How to generate income even while at home

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

MANY people expect to start the new year in the right direction. For them, this means finding lucrative jobs. There are different ways to bolster one's income, and three booklets comprising an information kit called "Sustainable Livelihood Options for the Philippines" provide good suggestions. They are not only doable, they help the environment as well.

Published in 1997 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with the assistance of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, the kit only recently came to our attention. We wish we had been informed of them sooner when copies were still available, but perhaps the brief explanations on some of the ideas given in the series may inspire interested readers to take up any or several of them.

The booklets do not merely list down possible income sources. As their common title states, they also provide options for "conservation-friendly livelihoods of relevance to urban-lowland, coastal and upland ecosystems in the Philippines." They also serve as manuals for the proper implementation of each option since, as their Preface explains, "[t]he search for livelihoods often results in the depletion or overuse of resources."

Contained in an attractive slipcase, the booklets are divided into the three main ecosystems. Of the three, the one on urban-lowland options are more feasible for households, for the other two, being more technical, often require special equipment, and are better undertaken in farms or as factory-style operations. So it is on the urban-lowland booklet that we concentrate on here.

Aside from methods of implementation, each livelihood option is accompanied by facts and figures on economic benefits (with estimated costs of production), marketing considerations, laws and restrictions on each specific undertaking, support services available dnd ecological implications.

Three livelihood options

The kit on urban-lowland options lists nine specific moneymaking undertakings, most of which can be done right at home, and whose raw materials are easily available. They range from planting seedlings for urban greening; growing ornamental plants and flowers; selling them as garlands or in dried form; creating papier maché articles; making soap, quilts, vinegar, jewelry boxes; to production of combustible briquettes and biogas.

Of these, urban greening and landscaping (meaning, producing seedlings for beautification purposes), making décor and potpourri from dried plants and flowers, making water hyacinth stalks for flower arrangements, creating jewelry boxes from cardboard or shipboard, can easily be one-person operations. Most of the others either need extra capital or special equipment or both.

All were included as options, however, because the materials used are often recycled, and thus, as means of livelihood, they also help reduce garbage disposal problems.

Urban greening

Urban greening and landscaping involves planting of trees and other plants in parks, streets and their islands, and other areas in the city. The trees and plants are meant primarily for beautification, but they can, of course, become barriers to noise as well. The booklet points out that "where there are windbreak plantings, energy requirement for cooling is significantly reduced by 50 percent." Trees also add value to urban properties, so as a source of income, planting seeds for trees has much potential for profit.

Propagating ornamental plants

Dried flowers, leaves and twigs can be made into beautiful floral arrangements and potpourri that are becoming increasingly popular these days. When put together creatively, they add color to and liven up a room. Studies show that hotels and some business establishments prefer dried plants because they are easy to maintain and last longer. Their dried "ingredients" are easy to obtain, and though the artisan can choose his own, the book lists preferred material. Among flowers, for instance, it suggests damask rose, asters, baby's breath, false bird of paradise, grass flowers, anthurium and everlasting. The list of preferred leaves is even longer and includes narra, eucalyptus, ferns, *anahaw*, bamboo, *palmera*, among others.

Making jewelry boxes

The jewelry boxes suggested are made of chipboard and used paper. As this is a handicraft industry, which can easily be family-owned, members of the family can help out. Since it is labor-intensive, the business can also provide employment and income to other people in the community. It has always been a good dollar earner, especially during Christmas and other holidays when gift-giving is a tradition.

Materials needed are simple, among them chipboards, cutter blades, masking tape, white glue, handmade paper, flowerets, scissors and paint brush. The method of production is equally simple, depending on the choice of patterns. The booklet demonstrates a heart-shaped box as a gift suggestion for special occasions like Valentine's Day.

Water hyacinth flower holders

Water hyacinths, commonly called water lilies here, are the plants we see floating and clogging our canals, *esteros* and other waterways. Such proliferation is dangerous to the ecosystem because, as the booklet explains, they can result in "alteration in the food chain and oxygen exchange of aquatic life in the coastal/freshwater ecosystem."

But if harvested and bundled, the stalks of the water hyacinth can be used to hold flowers and plants for floral arrangements, in the manner of the spiked metal counterpart called "frog." These lily stalks are much in demand by flower shops.

* * *

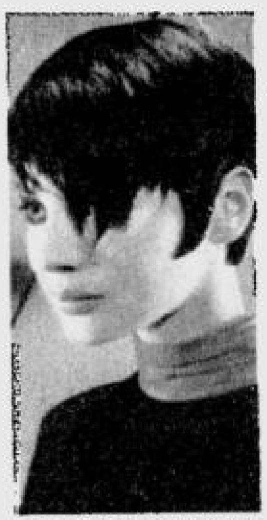
As the books are now out of print, we hope the DENR sees fit to make available duplicates even in the simplest and least expensive way—by Xerox or mimeograph, just so they can be made available to all interested parties. We would like to suggest also that the books be translated, if not into all the regional dialects, at least in Tagalog. As the country faces hard financial times ahead, this series of booklets on livelihood options can benefit many.

Take your pick of sculpted, geometric or wild hairstyles

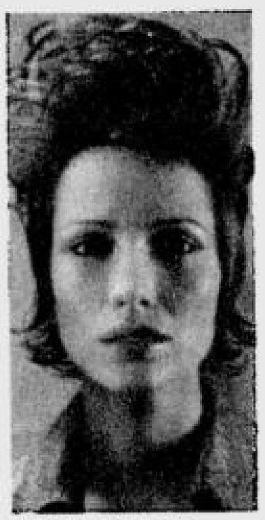
IN 2001, you've got the choice of glamorous curls, untamed mane or the cut-and-dried look.

Five top hairstylists from around the globe, namely, Teri Dougherty from the United States, Shai Greenberg from Israel, Mark Hill from the United Kingdom, François Mazeau from France, Jurgen Trondle from Germany and Satoshi Yagioka from Japan created three visionary styles for the year 2001—Belle de Jour, Wild Field and Constructiviste.

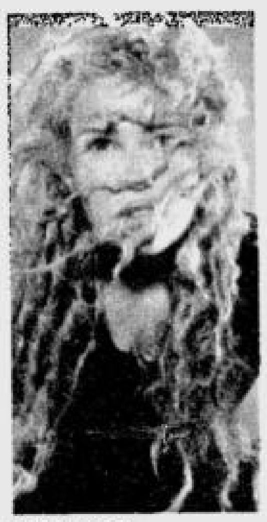
Belle de Jour encapsulates the look of the elegant lady, with just the hint of frivolity. It calls to mind film stars such as Catherine Deneuve, Audrey Hepburn or Grace Kelly. This touch of glamour can now be found in the hair that's got a body and precise sculpture. The look is characterized by carefully positioned curls and controlled styling. The predominant colors are light to dark blondes like ice-cold champagne, chestnut, mahogany and a dark cognac-red.



CONSTRUCTIVISTE



BELLE de Jour



WILD Field

The inspirational source for Wild Field was the world of nature, with all its power and unpredictability. The hairstyling is similar—wild, free and untamed. The hair colors reflect all the nuances of the natural world, from dark browns, ash blondes to golden blondes Any length of hair goes.

Constructiviste is functional, the designs geometric—just like the hairstyles. The cuts are clear and precise. Importance is given to fringes and corners, and there are no waves. For hair color, intensive reds combined with browns and blue blacks predominate.

L'ORÉAL Professionnel styles Mega's "Women to Watch 2001." Standing, from left) Sandra Fabie-Gfeller, Amanda Griffin, Isabel Roces; seated, Pinky Webb, Angel Jacob

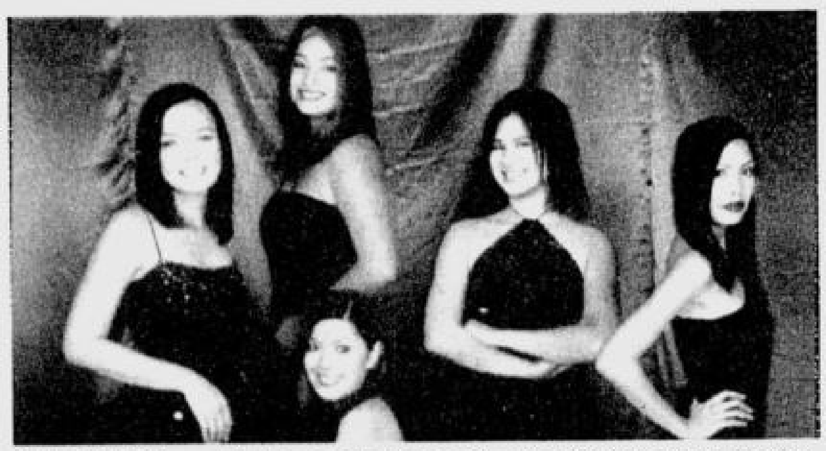
Ladies of L'Oréal

HALTER dresses covered in pailletes, asymmetrically cut hair in hues of orange and red, combined with 10 of the prettiest faces in Manila, fired up the recent L'Oréal Professionnel and Mega "Women to Watch 2001" show held at Mas y Mas in Intramuros. Hosted by Joey Mead and fashion director Robby Carmona, the event celebrated the joint-launch of L'Oréal Professionnel's first Style Society and Mega magazine's Women to Watch 2001.

Together with L'Oréal, the Style Society members will serve as a board of advisers who will help set hair trends and forecasts. They will also teach consumers and stylists.

The L'Oréal Style Society, which was conceptualized with L'Oréal Professionnel's philosophy in mind—"All Different, Each Unique"—is composed of David Charlton of David's Salon, Geoff Simpson of Arriba, Crispin Britannico of Hairbytes Salon, Pin Antonio of Salon de Manila, Eric Faury and Angelo Justin of Frank Provost Salon, Manfred Speiring of Basement Salon, Nelson Aguilar of Hairworks Salon, Jesi Mendes of Jesi Mendes Salon and Joey Molo of Regine's Salon.

These top hairdressers and colorists made their magic on 10 of Manila's most stylish women—collectively known as Mega's Women to Watch 2001. It is composed of VJ Amanda Griffin, recording artist Maxine, model Isabel Roces, restaurant managers Sandra Fabie Gfeller, Happy Ongpauco-Rivera and Mara dela Rama, jeweler Carmina Sanchez, TV personalities Mitzi Borromeo and Pinky Webb, and boutique owner Dimples Balaguer.



STANDING, from left, Mara de la Rama, Dimples Balaguer La'O, Maxine, Carmina Sanchez; seated, Happy Ongpauco-Rivera

Palmos to hold fashion show

DESIGNER Nono Palmos is one of fashion's well-kept secret.

"I let my clothes do the talking," Nono avers. "I hope my creativity has spoken well of me."

NONO Palmos

Palmos built his reputation as an astute clothes designer largely on the quality of his tailored corporate clothes. Indeed, both the press and his select clientele of working women have repeatedly praised his creations for their tailoring and well-placed details.

Although he had established a burgeoning business catering to corporate clients by the late '80s, he decided to undergo intensive training on fashion trends and technology under a noted Japanese fashion guru.

This intrinsic eagerness to learn has propelled him into the realm of show business as well. As wardrobe designer for Dina Bonnevie (for her daily talk show "D-Day"), Palmos learned the personality of colors and textures on various lighting effects. He has also delved into costume design when he designed Vilma Santos' wardrobe in "Palimos ng Pag-ibig" using patterns and colors to emphasize the emotional highs and lows of the character. The favorite designer of other show biz and media luminaries such as Superstar Nora Aunor, beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez and TV host Gel Santos Relos.

Today, as an active member of the FDCP (Fashion Design Council of the Philippines), Nono continues to widen his creative horizon and, in the process, break new grounds. His interpretation of "global Filipiniana" had been handpicked by FDCP founder Josie Natori for the Asian Society fashion exhibit held at Sak's Fifth Avenue in New York. The fashion exhibit came home to Manila last November in an unveiling at the Metropolitan Museum.

On Jan. 19, Nono will present gala fashion show at the Grand Ballroom of the Shangri-La Makati Hotel. The gala is aptly titled "Premiere: Spring/Summer 2001" and features 80 of Manila's top fashion models.

Inspired by the five elements of earth, fire, wind, water and love, respectively, Nono will unveil a stunning collection of Corporate Clothes (Terra Collection), Club Couture (Lumina Collection), Evening Formals (Avia Collection), Avant Garde Series (Aqua Collection) and Bridal Creations (Amore Collection).

Goldilocks
SARAPINOY
SUPER VALUE MEALS
part 2
1. • Mini Chickenpao • Softdrink P25*
2. • Fried Chicken • Rice • Softdrink P41*
3. • Breaded Porkloin • Rice • Softdrink P43*
4. • Pancit Palabok • Puto • Softdrink P45*
5. • Pork Meatballs • Rice • Softdrink P50*
6. • Fish w/ Steak Sauce • Rice • Softdrink P59*
Promo period:
Nov. 15 to Mar. 15, 2001
*Promo prices are VAT inclusive.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT Number 2884, SERIES OF 2000
All promo meals are served with regular COKE.
Goldilocks
Buhay Pinoy. Kain Pinoy Sa
Goldilocks